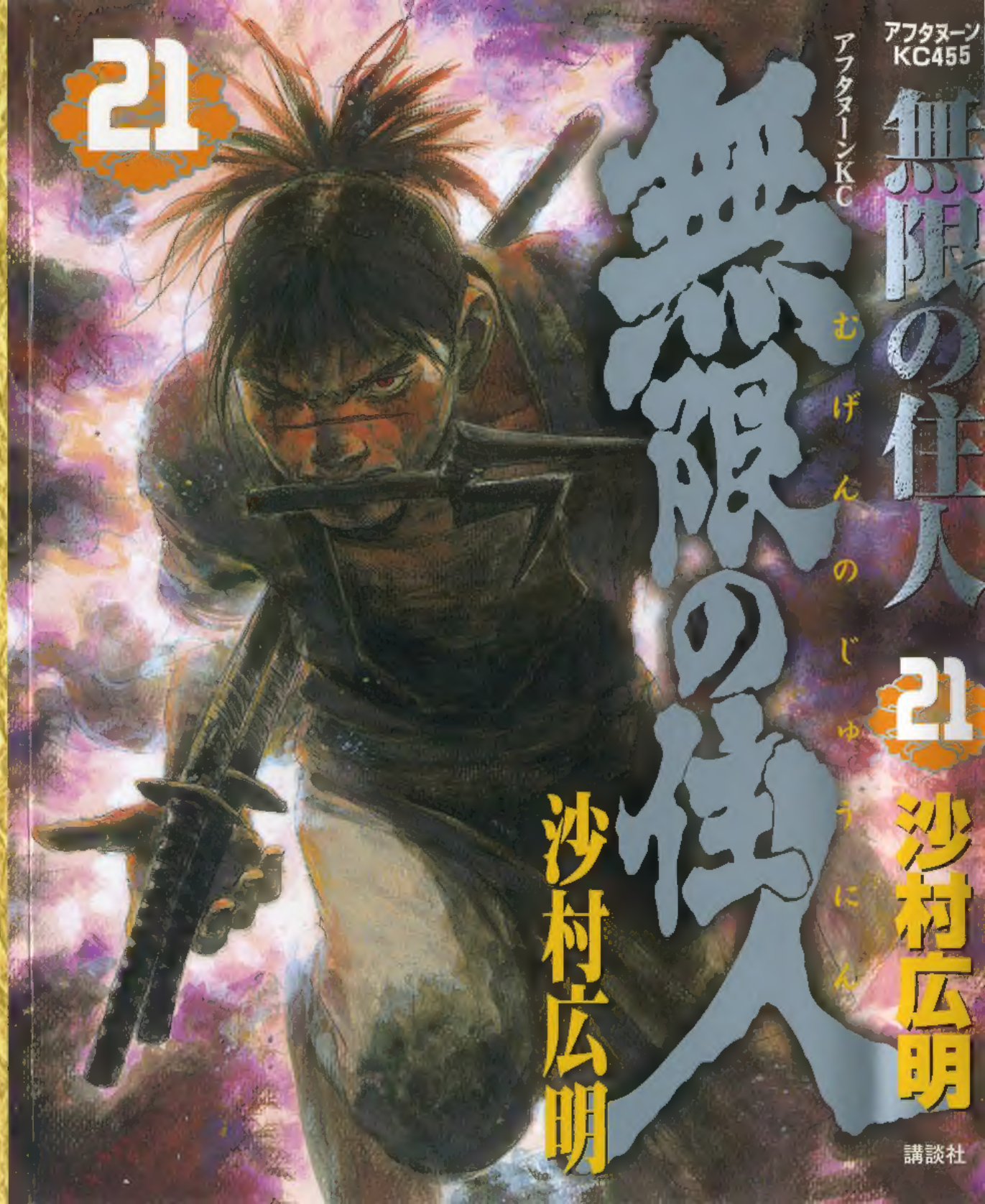
〈詠の二十一〉

いとほしき者と
命惜しき者と
こころ共に在るや



アフタヌーンKC

無限の住人

むげんのじゅうにん

21

沙村広明

沙村広明

アフタヌーン
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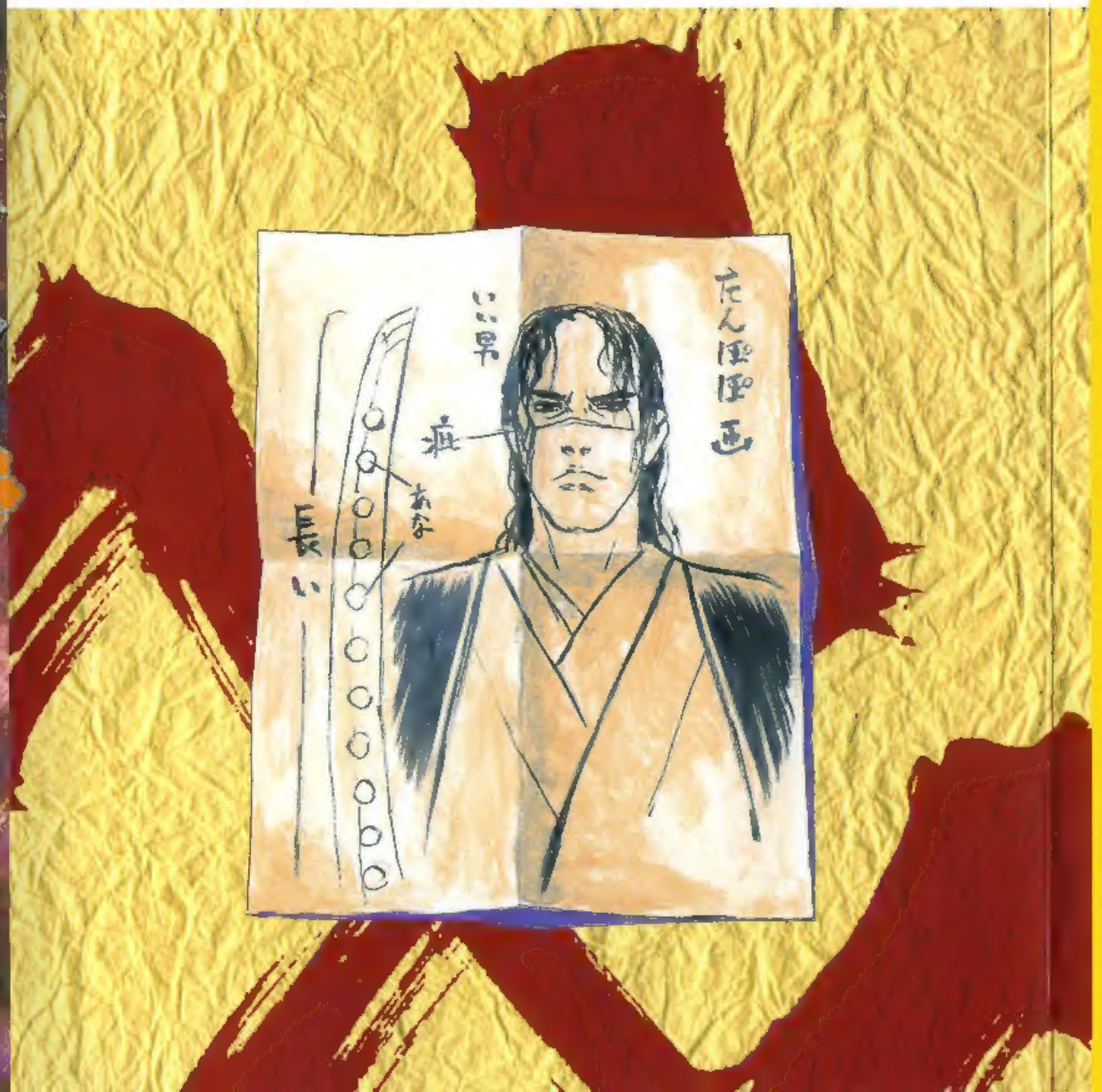
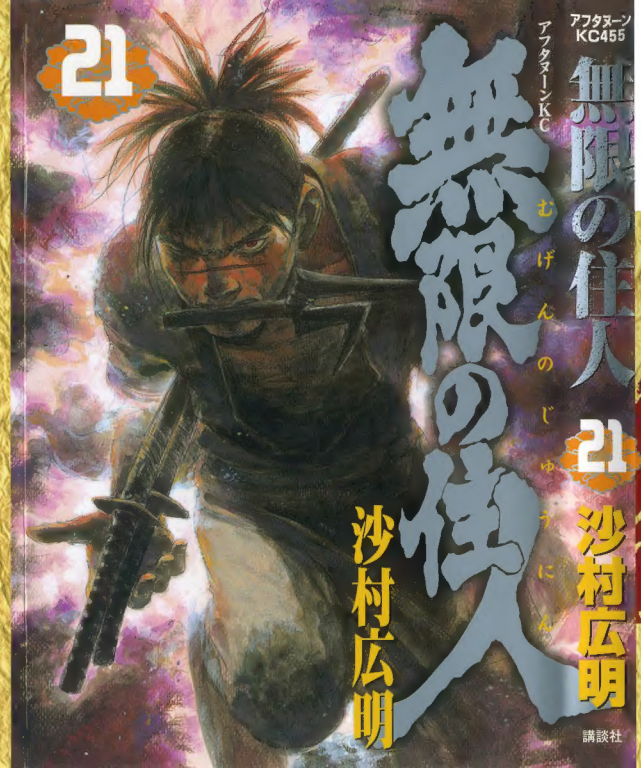


サムラヒロアキ ◎カラスヤサトシ

いや、カラスヤさんの自画像と自分の自画像が似てたもので…

〈詠の二十一〉

いとほしき者と
命惜しき者と
こころ共に在るや



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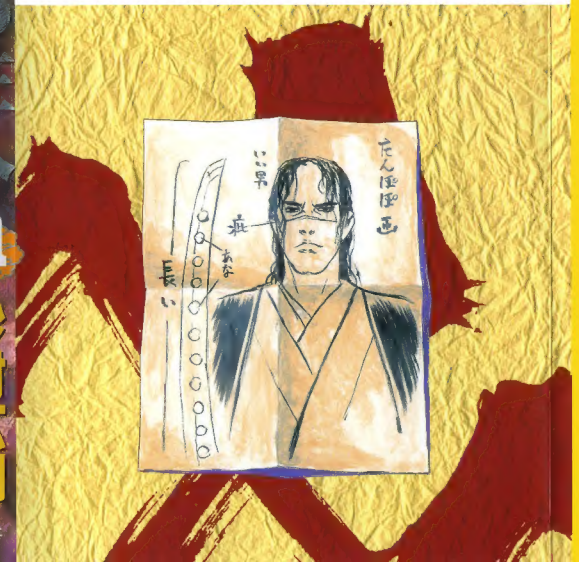

サムラヒロアキ

※いちおう申し上げておけば、
この表紙の記述は本編とあまり関係ありません。
でもこんな設定のギャルゲーを誰かが作ってくれるなら
個人的に嬉しいなあという気持ちはあります。（担当）

酒乱教師

百琳（ひゃくりん）

主人公の通う無限学園の中国語教師だが、酒を飲みながら英語の授業をする破天荒な性格。昔、酔うと近所の子どもをいじめていたため、主人公のトラウマ的存在になっている。

幼なじみ

浅野（あさの）凛（りん）

いつも元気で、その外見からは信じがたい大食漢。幼いころ主人公にもらったヘアリングが捨てられない。寝ぼけた小刀に気付かれたとき、彼女は意外な一面を見せて……。

謎の転校生

乙橘（おとのたちばな）槇絵（まきえ）

主人公を追いかけるように転校してきた無口な少女。その態度のため周囲から誤解を受けやすいが、とあるキッカケでその幼児体型にコンプレックスを感じていたことが明らかに。

無限の住人 21

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誰にも一度しか訪れない季節、過ごす学園の名は「無限」。
僕らはその「住人」たちに、導かれるようにして出会うんだ――。

近所の子供

マネージャー

たんぽぽ

名家の箱入り娘で、スタイル抜群のお嬢様。帝王学の一環で3年間だけ学園に通うことを許されている。常に一生懸命だが破壊的にドジで、部活ではいつも主人公を困らせる。

県大会優勝

ダブリ

杣燎（そまりょう）

主人公がよく通う喫茶店「ろっきだん」の看板娘。文武両道の優等生なので周囲から敬遠されがちだが、まったくそれを意に介さない主人公が気になりはじめているらしい……。

吉乃（よしの）瞳阿（どうあ）

一人暮らしの主人公のため、毎日のように部屋に来ては家事全般をこなしてくれる。最近、主人公の周りに女の子が増えたので、前のように甘えまくることができず不満なようだ。

4-3
吉乃

目黒（めぐろ）

学園最強の異名をとる帰国子女格闘家。何かと主人公につきまとい、なぜかをライバル視して、勝負を挑んでくる。ダブリゆえかいつも優勢を張りたがるが、実は寂しがり屋。

メーカー 講談社
レーベル アフタヌーンKC
ジャンル ツンデレっ娘非攻略型コミック
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狂人

沙村広明

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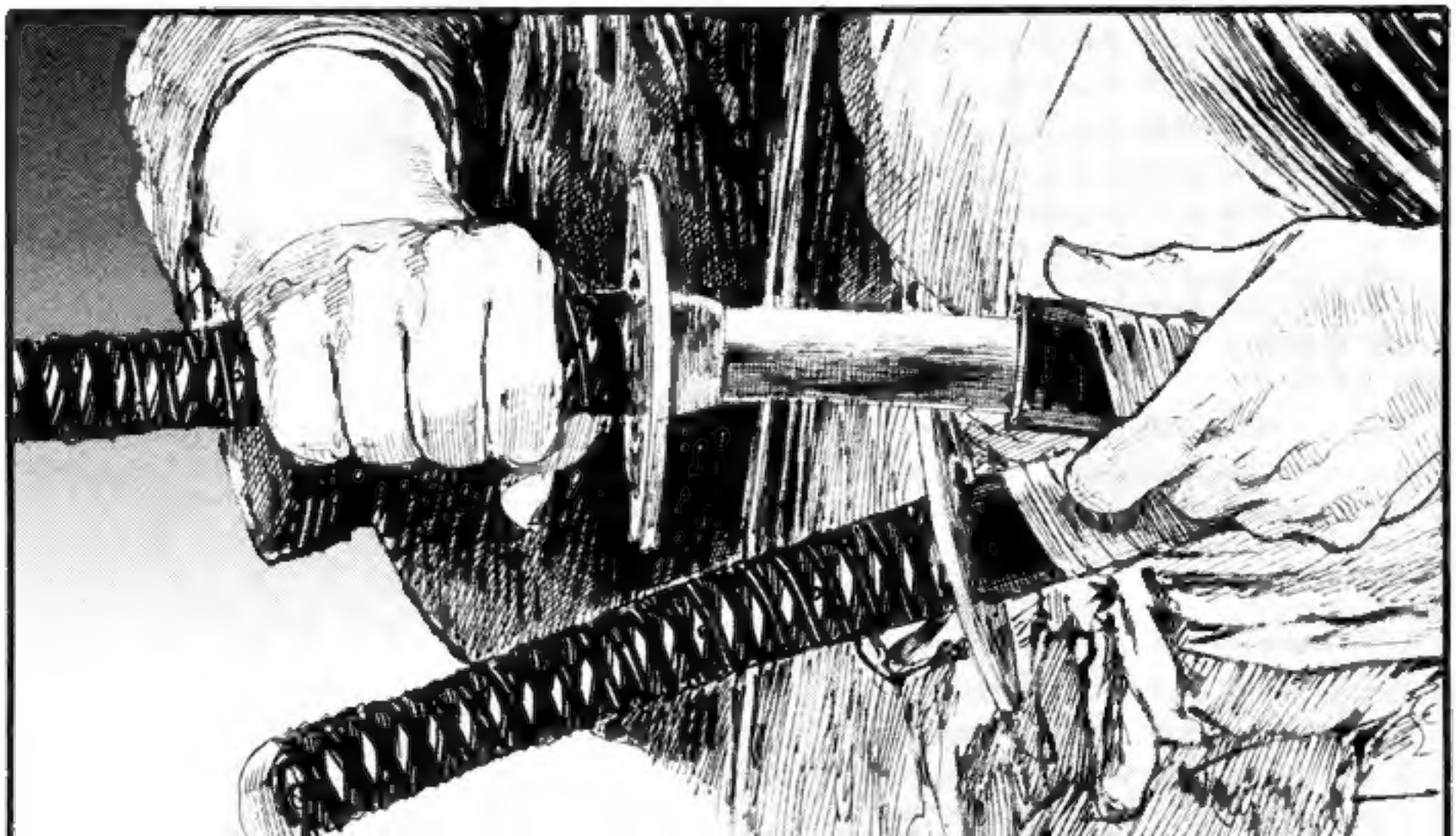
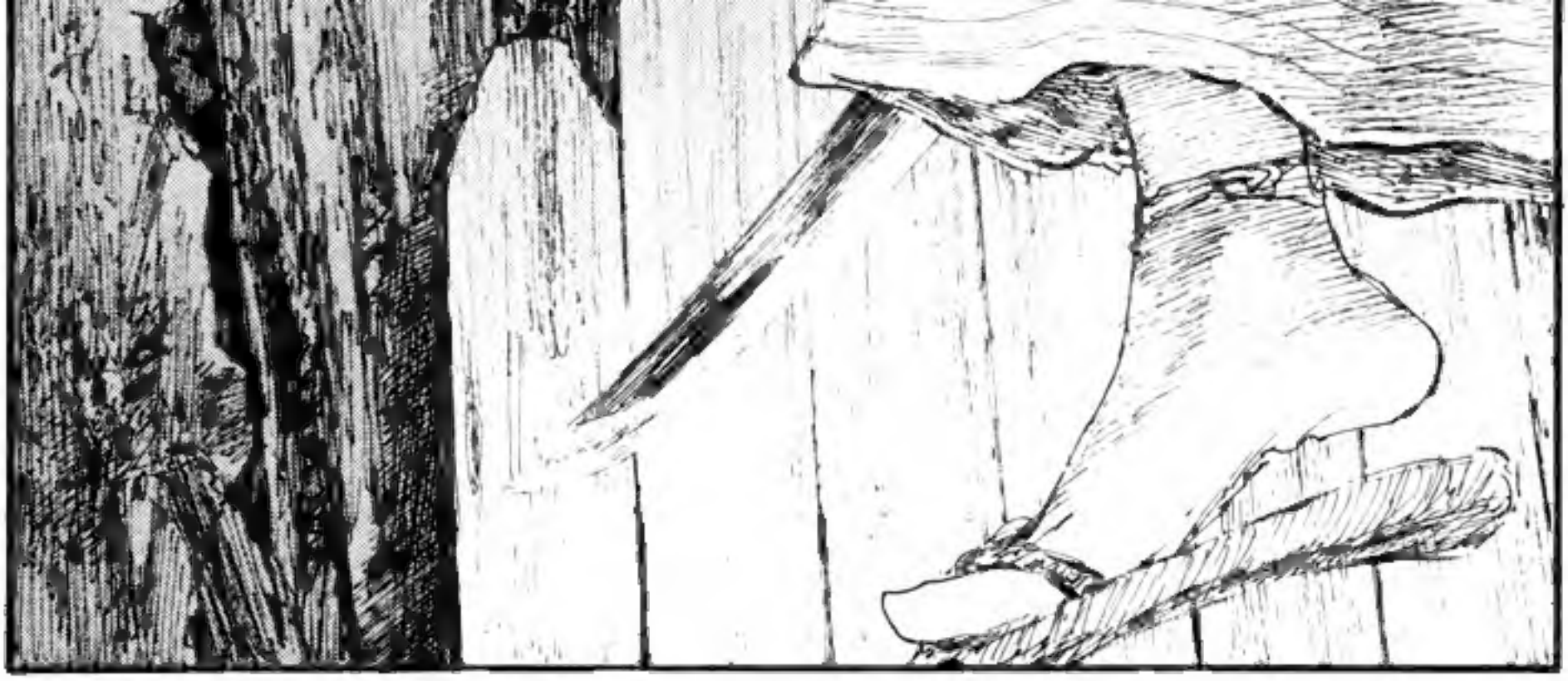
CHAPTER 135:
FOOTSTEPS RESOUND

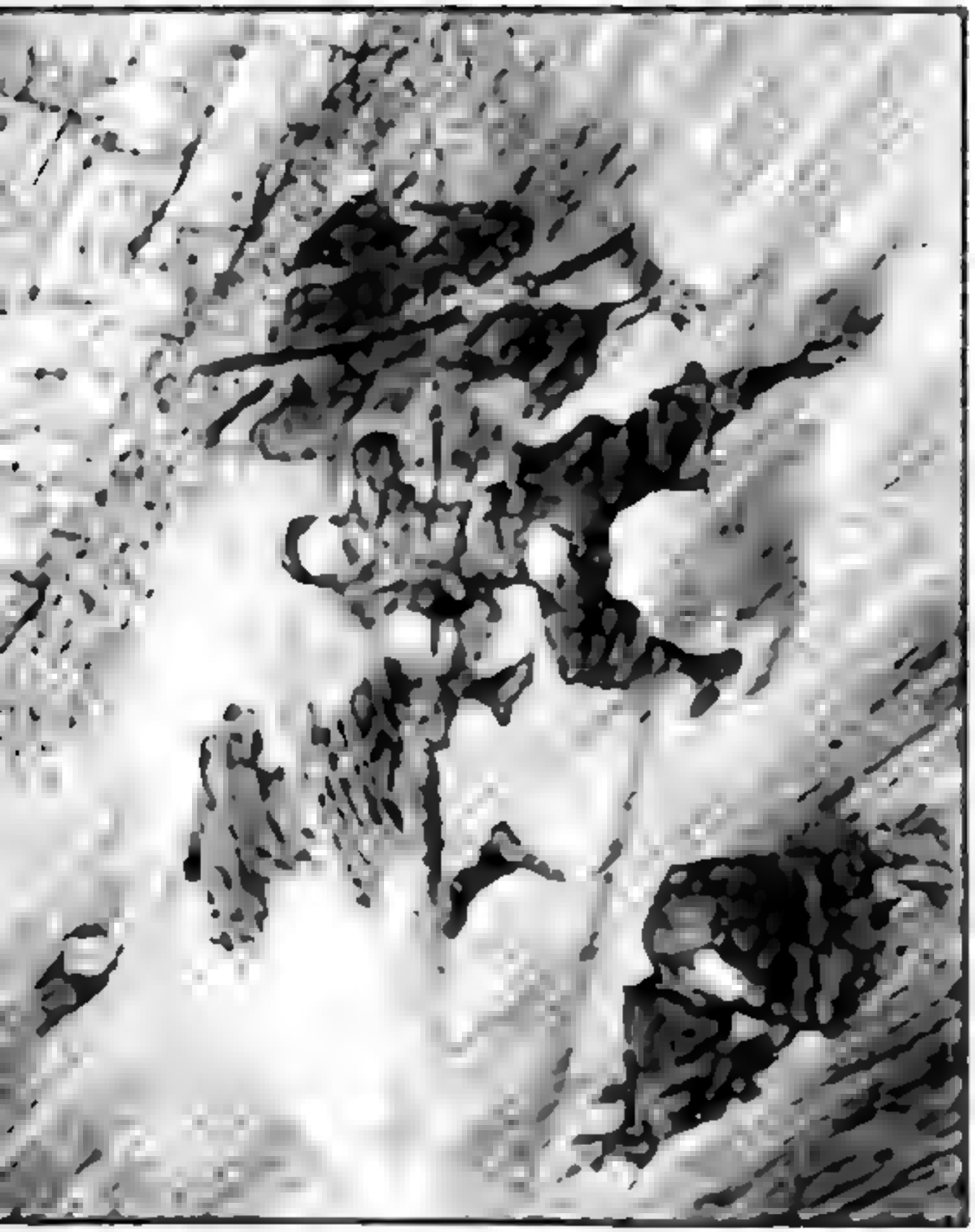


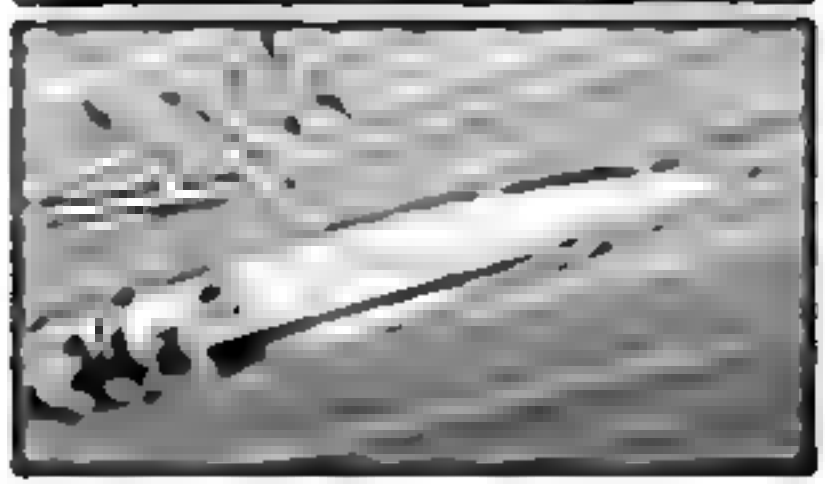


パン

WHO ARE YOU?!

ROKKI ...!





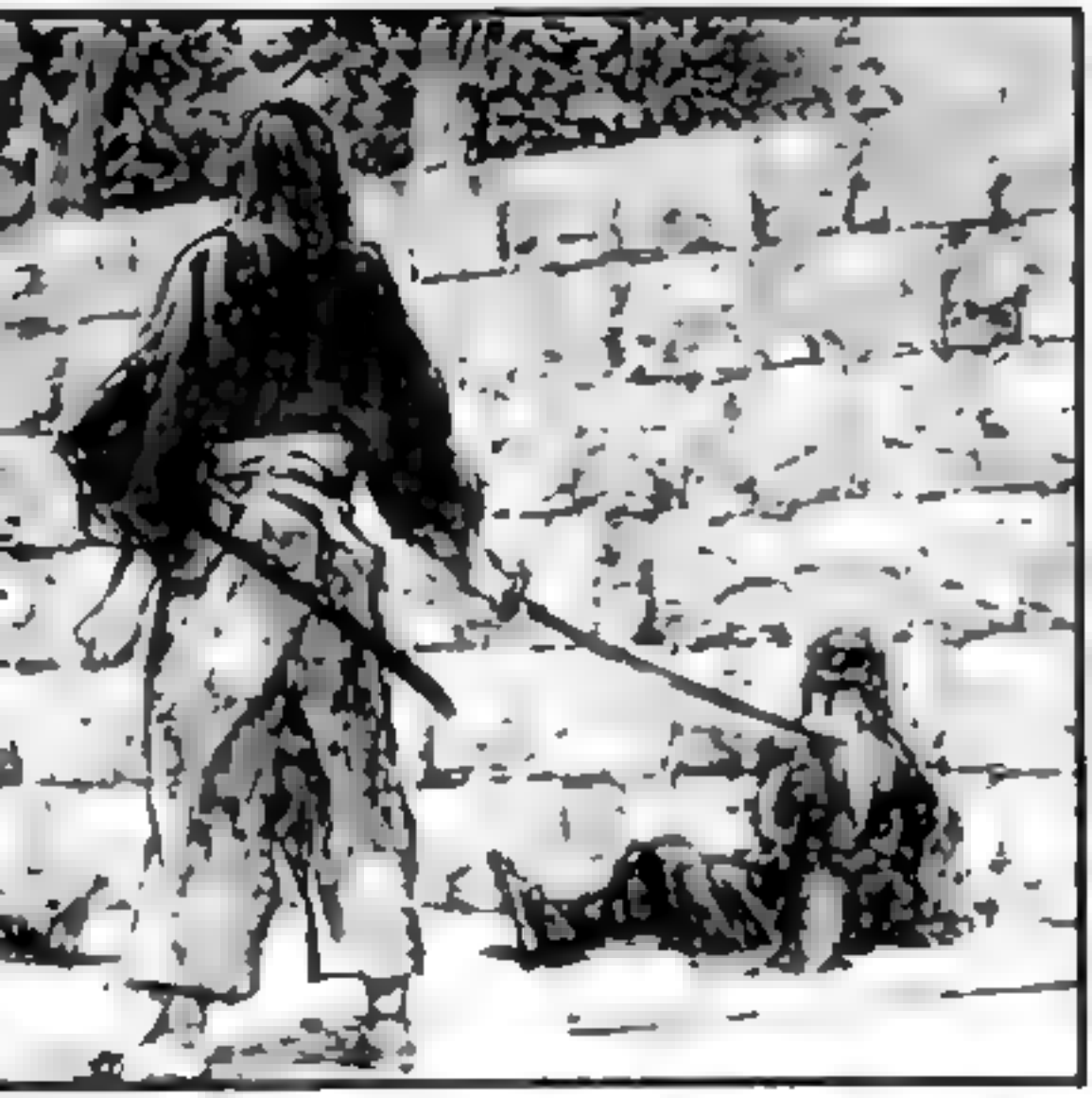
HA
HA...!

YOU THINK YOU'RE AS QUICK WITH YOUR LONG SWORD AS I AM WITH MY NAGINATA* ?!

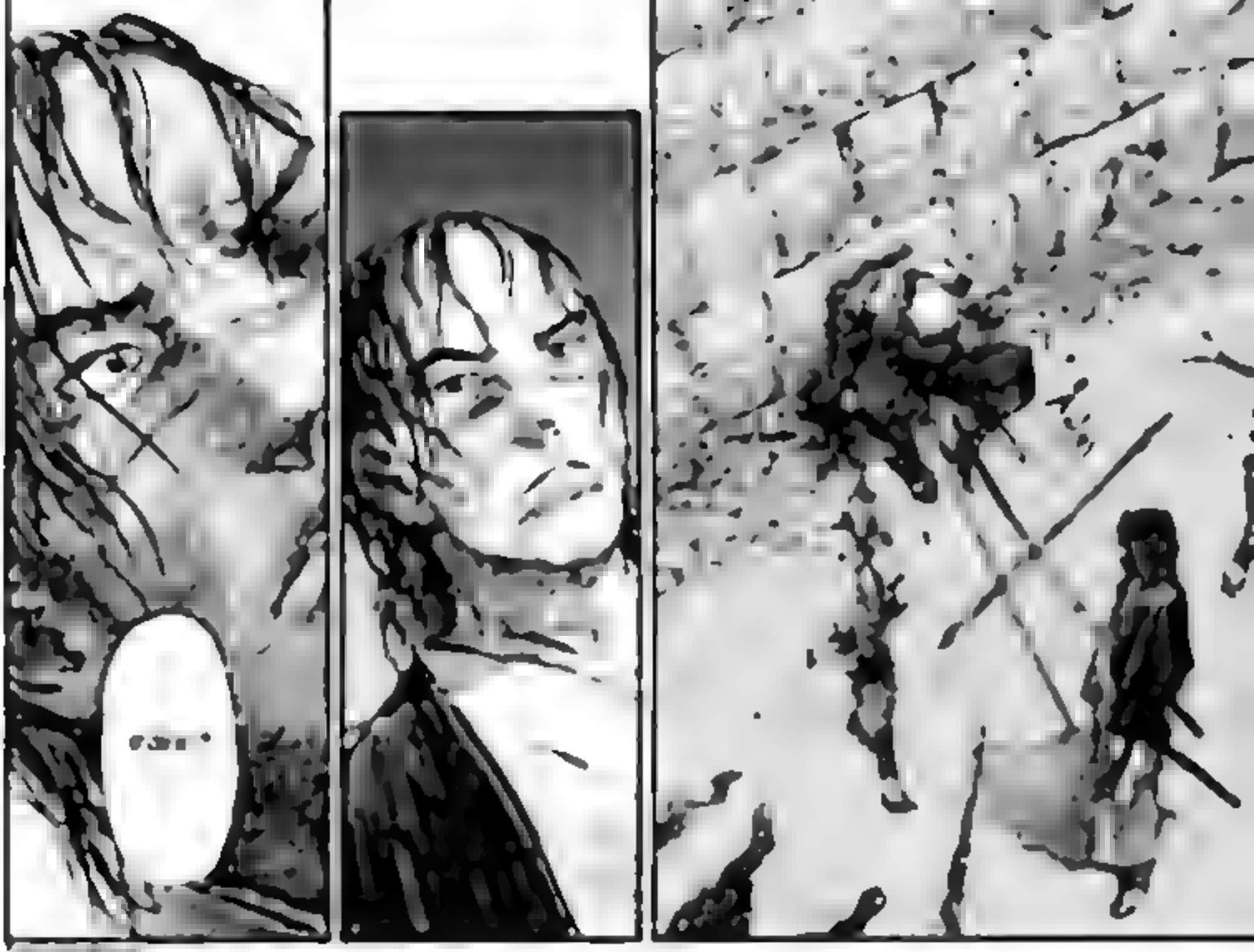
YOU ITTO-RYU IDIOT!

SCH

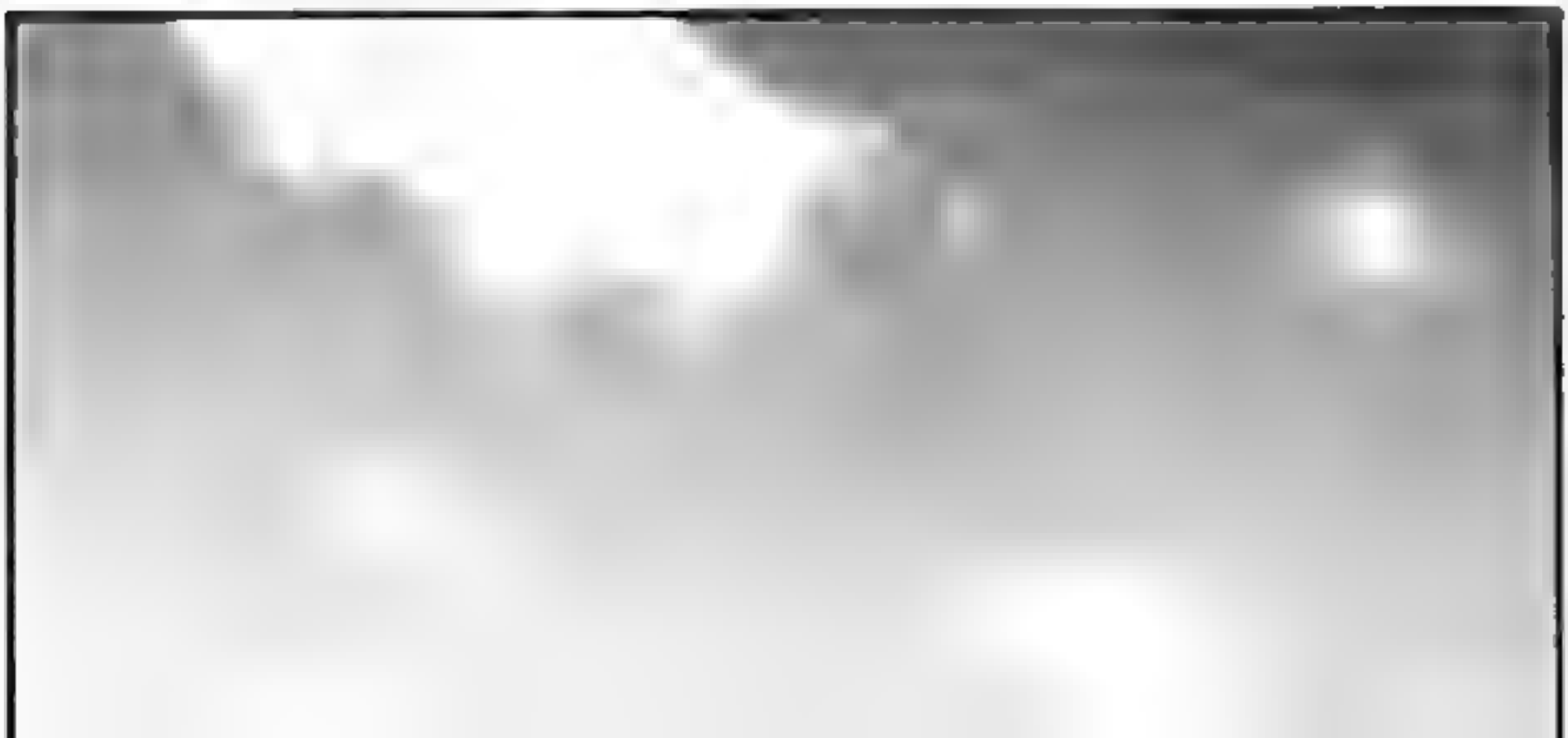
THAT CAN'T BE
THE SWORD SHOULD BE TOO HEAVY.. YOU CAN'T



WHAT KIND OF
SWORD IS THIS ?


...SIR.

I SHOULDVE QUESTIONED HIM BEFORE KILLING HIM



YOU TWO LEFT THE ITTO-RYU ...?

I DON'T MIND. NOT AT ALL..

"DON'T DEFEAT YOUR ENEMY BY SUPERIOR NUMBERS" . .

THAT'S THE BASIC RULE OF ITTO-RYU THAT OUR MASTER GAVE US.

WE BROKE IT IN OUR LAST FIGHT . .

KAGEHISA ANOTSU REALLY IS A BLOCKHEAD!

NO! THE MASTER WAS NICE. HE REVOKED OUR EXPULSION AFTER I EXPLAINED THE DETAILS TO HIM.

HE WASN'T AN AVERAGE ENEMY, AFTER ALL, HE WAS IMMORTAL .

IT'S ME WHO'S THE PROBLEM, EVER SINCE THE FIGHT . .

.. I'M SCARED.

BECAUSE OF ME, ISAKU MIGHT DIE JUST THINKING ABOUT IT . .

HM?

YOU SEE, RIN.

BUT ISAKU WAS MADE IMMORTAL.

EXECUTIONER YAMADA'S SERVANT.

I GOT THEM FROM BENKI..

LOOK AT HIS WOUNDS..!

THEY WERE EVEN WORSE TEN DAYS AGO.

BUT...! MANJI'S WOULD'VE BEEN HEALED ALREADY.

THEY DIDN'T HEAL YET?!

WHAT?!

WHEN WE FOUGHT.

. THE DOCTOR DIDN'T MANAGE .

. TO MAKE US IMMORTAL.

WELL, RIN, IT LOOKS LIKE . .

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I CAN FEEL IT

WE'LL LOSE OUR IMMORTALITY AFTER WE'RE COMPLETELY SEPARATED FROM MANJI'S BODY

YES, GOOD

NOW THAT SHE'S PROMISED NOT TO KILL ANYMORE.

PLUS, I'M CONVINCED THAT I CAN PROTECT DOA WITHOUT IT,

BUT I'M GLAD THAT I COULD ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING IMPORTANT WHILE I WAS AN IMMORTAL.

AND NOW ..? WILL YOU GO BACK TO THE NORTH?

NO. WE CAN'T AFFORD THAT

WE'RE WANTED CRIMINALS IN EZO AND MATSUMAE.

IT WAS NICE BEING PART OF ITTO-RYU, BUT ..

WE'LL GO SOUTH.

YESTERDAY, WE TALKED ABOUT BOARDING A DUTCH SHIP.

WHAT BULLSHIT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

AH, RIGHT HE'S A MISSIO-NARY .

UH, NO .

THIS AIN'T BULLSHIT IF ISAKU CAN MANAGE TO PASS OFF AS A DUTCH, IT MIGHT JUST WORK.

HE'S A MIXED BLOOD .

. ALSO ABANDONED OUR GODS.

WHEN WE LEFT EZO, DOA AND I . .

MANY PEOPLE WERE HURT IN THE NAME OF IT . .

?

I EVEN ABDICATED MY FAMILY NAME, "YASUNOOKAMI,"* WHICH I GOT FROM MY FATHER.

*'JESUS' WOLF'

I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST.

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, RIN

WHAT IS THIS..?

HM?

HERE, THIS IS FOR YOU

MY MOTHER GAVE ME TWO OF THEM, SO THE SECOND ONE IS MY GIFT TO YOU.

. AND THEY ASK THE MAN THEY LOVE TO ALWAYS CARRY IT.

IN MY HOMELAND, THE GIRLS START CARVING A NICE PATTERN INTO IT WHEN THEY REACH THE AGE OF MARRIAGE . .

I CAN DO WITHOUT ADVICE FROM LITTLE KIDS!

I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU, RIN. YOU'RE ALREADY 17; IT'S ABOUT TIME .

THE MAN THEY LOVE .

YOU HAVE TO ADORN THE GRIP AND CASING.

I STARTED FOR YOU

SOME-THING'S ALREADY CARVED INTO IT!

EH? BUT .

. .I DESIGNED .

YOU KNOW .

IT MEANS, "THERE'LL BE A REUNION" .

. .THAT PATTERN MYSELF.

MANJI ?!

WHERE DID YOU SUDDENLY APPEAR FROM?!

I FOLLOWED YOU THE WHOLE TIME

THEY'RE GONE ..

YES .

WHAT FOR? I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ..

BUT YOU SAID A ONE-ARMED MAN WOULD LOOK TOO CONSPICUOUS.

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING?

THEY'RE LIKE US.

AND THOSE TWO...?

AND.. ?

OH, REALLY?

WHATEVER! LET'S GO BACK!

NO, THANKS.

I'LL FEED YOU

HEY, MANJI, WE SHOULD EAT SOMETHING.

EH?

IT'S "YASU NO O-KAMI"*.

"YASU-NOOKA-MI".

AAAAH!

*GOD'S JESUS

EY O!
MASTER HABAK!!

REALLY .?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO CALL ME THAT ANYMORE.

THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED.

HUFF!

LISTEN, RYO!

I'M HAPPY TO HEAR THAT, FATHER

CHAPTER 135 | END

❖第百三十六幕❖

鬼哭

CHAPTER 136:
DEMON'S HOWL

KYO'S DEATH, I SHOULD'VE DONE AT LEAST THAT

ENOUGH.

PLEASE, FORGIVE ME THAT I WASN'T ABLE TO BE HERE

IT MUST'VE BEEN HARD FOR YOU.

THESE WORDS WOULD MAKE MOTHER HAPPY

SORRY

NOT AT ALL

YOU VERY WELL KNOW THAT, FATHER

RYO..!

I HAVE TO COMMIT SEPUKKU.

I SEE .

MR MITAKE TOLD ME.

AFTER MY DEATH, HE WILL TAKE YOU IN AS HIS FOSTER DAUGHTER.

I ASKED MITAKE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU

BUT I'M SO SORRY, FATHER

YOU ONLY

EXCUSE ME !

DON'T CRY!

..DID THIS FOR THE GOVERN-MENT.

BUT NOBODY FROM THE COUNCIL

.TOOK THAT INTO ACCOUNT

IF ONLY I HAVE TO DIE FOR IT, WE GET AWAY FINE

NO WONDER !

IT WASN'T ONLY ABOUT THE FURLOUGH INCIDENT THEY MANAGED TO BREAK INTO THE PALACE, LIGHT IT ON FIRE, AND START A FLOOD

BUT .. DIDN'T YOU CONDUCT THEM FOR THE GOVERN-MENT!?

NO ..

FOR THE HOUSE OF TOKU-GAWA!

THE IMMORTALITY EXPERIMENTS WERE THE TRIGGER?

YES.

I..

WHEN I LEARNED OF THESE EXPERIMENTS, I IMMEDIATELY KNEW

TO ENSURE THE PEACE.

..AND WHOM YOU REALLY WANTED TO MAKE IMMORTAL.

I KNOW YOU . WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU ARE ..

I KNEW WHY YOU DID THEM, FATHER.

IENARI TOKUGAWA!

THE SHOGUN!

HM?

297 HUMANS .

THE BLOOD OF THE IMMORTAL HAD TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE BLOOD OF THE TEST SUBJECT.

...THAT THE EXPERIMENTS WOULDN'T ACHIEVE THE DESIRED RESULT.

I SUS-PECTED ..

THAT'S HOW MANY DIED DURING THE EXPE-RIMENTS.

BUT I COULDN'T SUBJECT HIS HIGHNESS TO SUCH A DANGEROUS TEST.

IF WE HAD ACHIEVED IMMORTALITY, IT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT STORY .

TO FIND OUT WHETHER THE BLOOD IS COMPATIBLE OR NOT IS DANGEROUS ENOUGH.

SO MANY DEATHS .. I SHOULDN'T OUTLIVE THEM .

THEN 250 OF THEM WOULD STILL BE ALIVE .

WHEN I REALIZED THAT, I SHOULD'VE STOPPED.

HEHE
.

...

THE EYE IS
IMPORTANT
. .

FATHER
.

FATHER
. . !

..WE'LL NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN

PLEASE STAY HERE TONIGHT!

OTHER-WISE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO BEAR THAT
.

YOU ALWAYS CRY.

I...

I HAVE TO SET A FEW THINGS STRAIGHT. I CAN'T DIE BEFORE THAT

I DON'T HAVE TO COMMIT SEPPUKU IMMEDIATELY THEY GAVE ME ONE MONTH.

.. THE ONES I TRAINED SINCE THEY WERE CHILDREN

LUCKILY, I STILL HAVE MY RESERVE TROOPS

I REMEMBER IT LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY.

YES, I REMEMBER

HM. REALLY..! DID I MENTION THEM TO YOU?

YOU TOLD ME ABOUT THEM ONCE.

"ROKKI."

YOU CALLED THEM.

THEY WILL SUCCEED THE MUGAI-RYU

BUT THEY AREN'T YET GOOD ENOUGH TO ACT AS MY ARMS AND LEGS .

I TRIED TO FIND MORE PEOPLE WHO ARE EVEN BETTER SUITED TO FIGHT

I HAVE TO REPLACE HIM SOME-HOW.

HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO REPLACE HIM?

I LOST ONE OF THEM JUST YESTERDAY.

DOMA

THAT MUST BE VERY ANNOYING FOR YOU, AS YOU DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME . .

I BEG OF YOU, FATHER!

LET ME TAKE HIS PLACE!

MY SWORD MAY NOT BE GOOD ENOUGH TO BE DRAWN DURING THE DAY, BUT...

NINE YEARS AGO, I FIRST ASKED YOU TO TRAIN MY SWORD SKILLS! SINCE THEN, I HAVE TRAINED EVERY DAY, NO MATTER IF IT WAS SNOWING OR IF I WAS SICK, NOT EVEN ON THE DAY MOTHER DIED!

LET ME DRAW MY SWORD AS ONE OF THEM... LIKE LIGHTNING IN THE MOONLIGHT... LIKE A SPARK IN THE NIGHT.

...THESE PEOPLE TRAVEL AT DUSK!

YOUR TIME IN THE SHADOWS IS OVER

YOU THINK I NEED THE HELP OF A 17-YEAR-OLD?!

LISTEN..!

RYO..

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE YOUR FATHER!

FROM NOW ON, YOU WILL LIVE AS MITAKE'S DAUGHTER, AS THE DAUGHTER OF A SAMURAI.

BUT IF I CAN'T BE USEFUL TO YOU, THEN MY LIFE IS OF NO VALUE.

RYO!

I HAVE NOTHING AGAINST MR. MITAKE ...

BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE MITAKE'S FOSTER DAUGHTER

I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT, FATHER

...ON THE DAY YOU DIE!

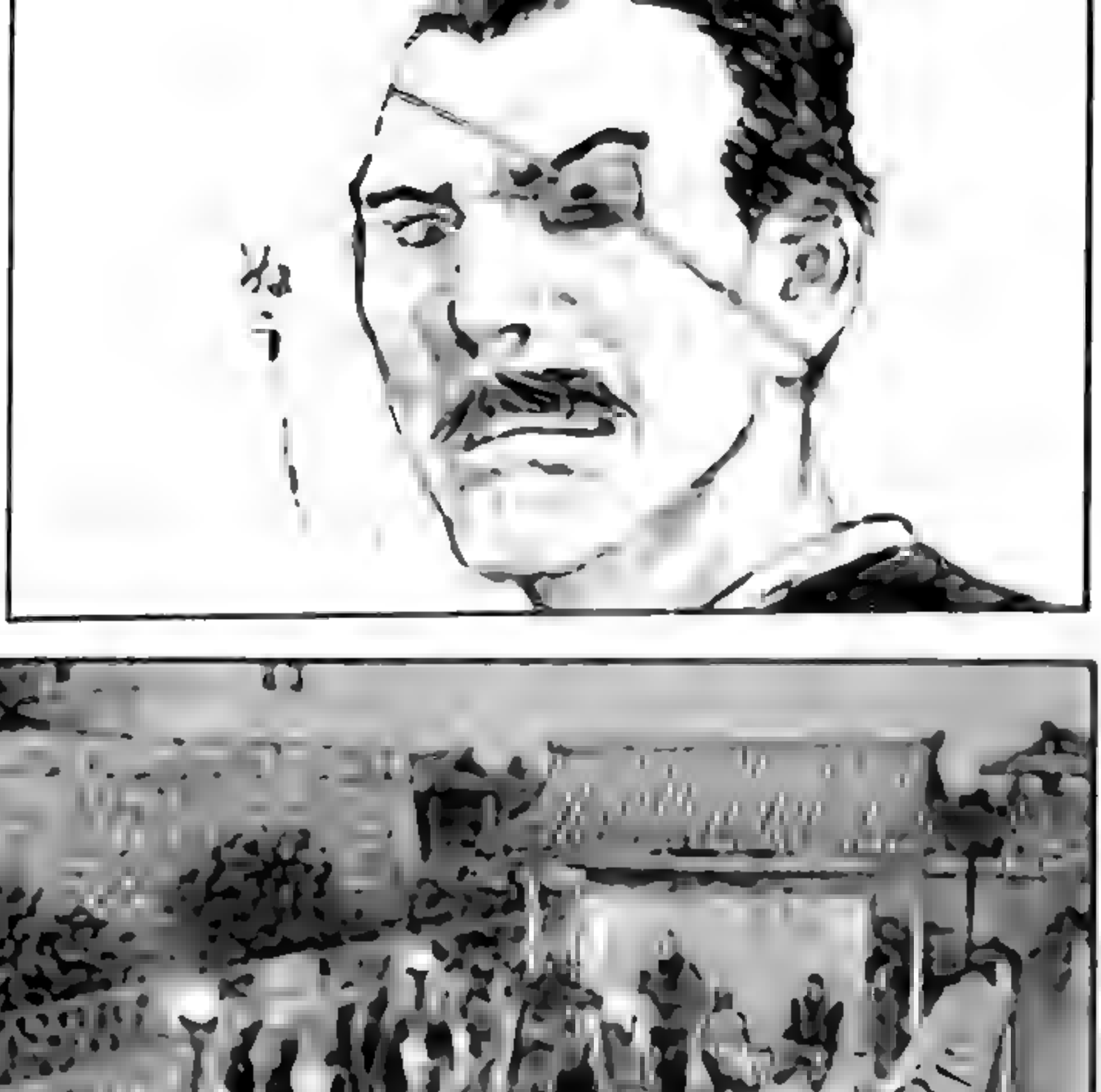
...THEN I WILL SLIT MY THROAT IN FRONT OF MITAKE ...

PLEASE DON'T REFUSE MY REQUEST!

IF YOU REFUSE .

I WANT TO ACCOMPANY YOU ON YOUR LAST FIGHT, FATHER!

THAT SURELY WOULD BE UNPLEASANT FOR MITAKE ..



SHINHEI DOMA, SAME.

SHISHIYA ARASHINO, SAME GROUP.

ROKKI-DAN, HANAGUMI*, INROKU BAN!

*SEE DEMON BAND, FLOWER 65 P.

RYO SOMA!

SHOZO MURASAKI

TARIESHIN HASSHU

LAST NIGHT, FOUR OF OUR PEOPLE OF THE HEBIGUMI* AND HAIYABO OF THE HANAGUMI WERE KILLED.

YOU PROBABLY HAVE ALREADY HEARD .

RIGHT .

MITAKE ..

(*SNAKE GROUP)

YES!

THE TWO NINJA WHO ACCOMPANIED THEM SAW THE ENEMY MEGURO, TANPOPO, COME HERE.

THAT'S WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE ..

THIS IS SUKE-ZANE BARO

YOU ARE A GOOD ARTIST

Attractive scar

Holes

Long sword

Art by Tan-popo

. HE IS ONE OF THE FOUR PEOPLE WHOSE NAMES AND FACES WE KNOW

..AND THEIR LEADER, KAGEHISA ANOTSU .

..TAITO MAGATSU ..

WITH SOSUKE, ABAYAMA ..

..AND ONE WHO MUST'VE GIVEN THEM THE PLANS

BESIDES THEM, THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE MORE WHO INFILTRATED THE PALACE THE OTHER DAY .

.. THE BEST OF THE FAMOUS SHINGYOTO-RYU FROM KAGA LAST FALL IN SUWA AT ONCE.

AND LAST, THERE'S THE PERSON WHO KILLED .

FORM THE
ITTO-RYU

I'M KAGIMURA HAOAKI, LEADER OF ROKKI-DAN

IF KAGEHISA ANOTSU, THE HEAD OF ITTO-RYU, IS STILL ALIVE AT THAT TIME

SO I HAVE 30 DAYS TO ANNIHILATE ITTO-RYU

I HAVE ONE MONTH LEFT UNTIL I HAVE TO COMMIT SEPPUKU

!?

YOUR SENTENCE WILL STILL BE EXECUTED

THAT MEANS-

THEN ROKKI-DAN WILL DIE WITH ME

[illegible] ONE WILL GET EATEN..!

SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO CATCH A HUNTED MOUSE, HAS TO THINK LIKE A HUNTED MOUSE.

YOU ARE VERY LUCKY!

YOU ARE IN THE SAME POSITION AS YOUR ENEMIES!

HE WITHDREW TO A REMOTE HOUSE

THE LEGS TO THE SEA, THE ARMS TO THE MOUN-TAINS

ぺん？

. ALL THREE, ALL THREE, WENT TO THE OPARA-MOUNTAINS. STARVATION WAS NEAR

...AND THE HEAD TO THE SKY. THAT'S WHERE THEY DISAPPEAR IF YOU LISTEN TO THE OLD STORIES.

HEY, ANYONE HOME?

IT SAYS PEOPLE JUST ARRIVED

FROM THE TWO OLD ONES.

I BRING A MESSAGE

LOOK HERE !

UNDER-STOOD LET'S GO!

WHAT NOW? SHOULD WE TALK SOMEWHERE ELSE?

I'LL BE BACK IN THE EVENING.

ばたん

ゴボ
ゴボ
ゴボ

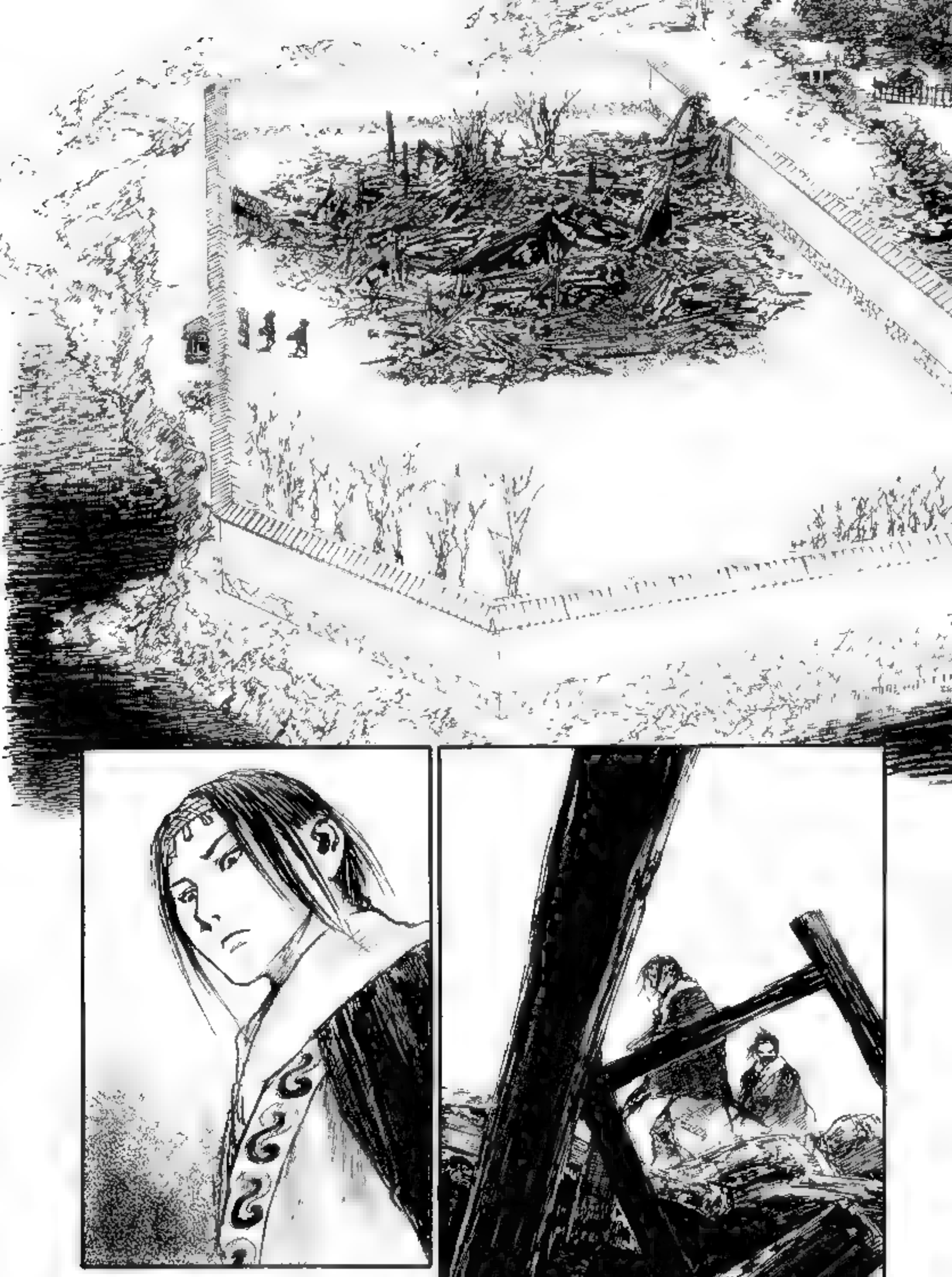
!

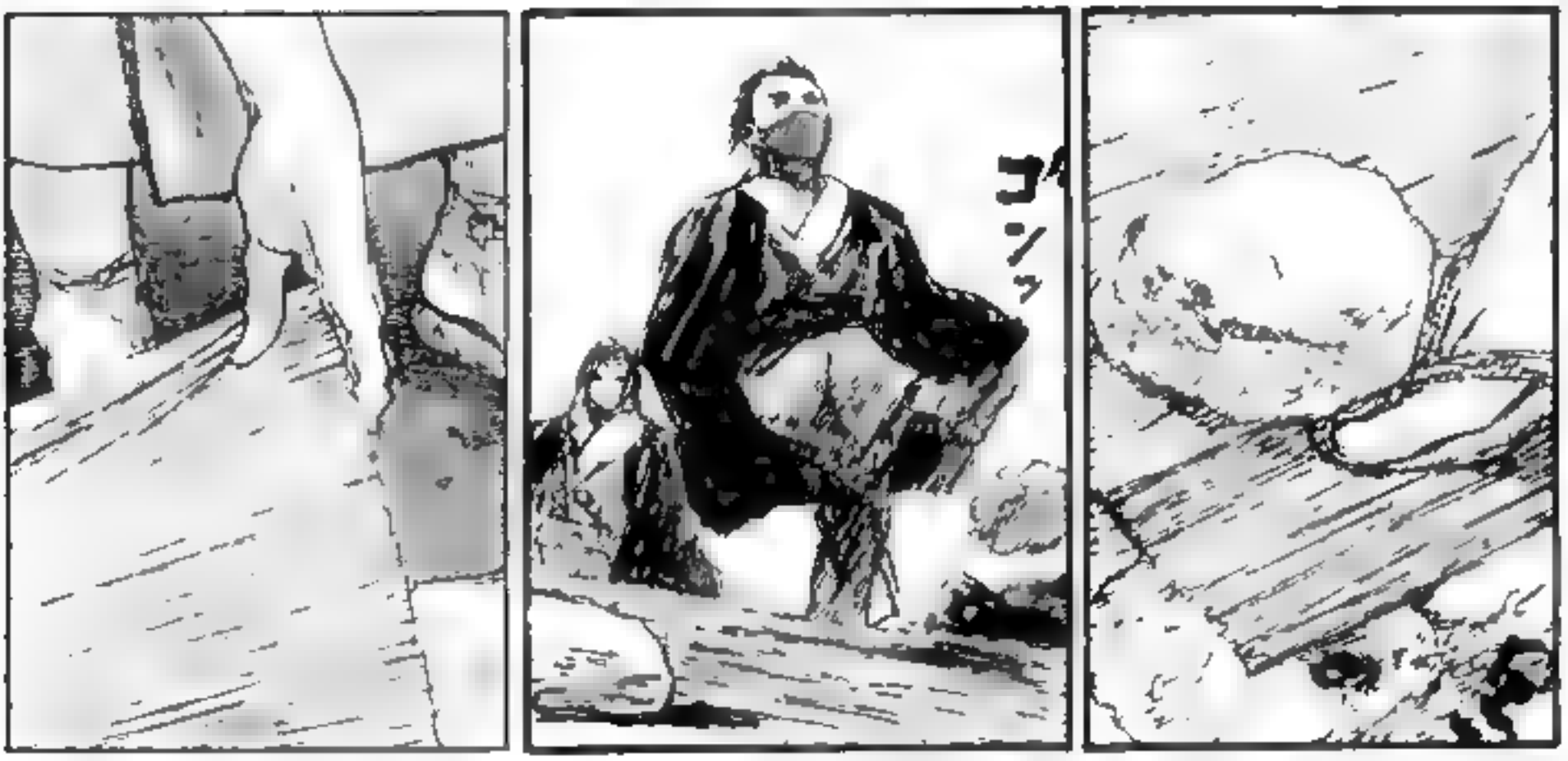
...

CHAPTER 136 | END

※第百三十七幕※
おとづれ
〈其の一〉

CHAPTER 137
VISIT
PART 1

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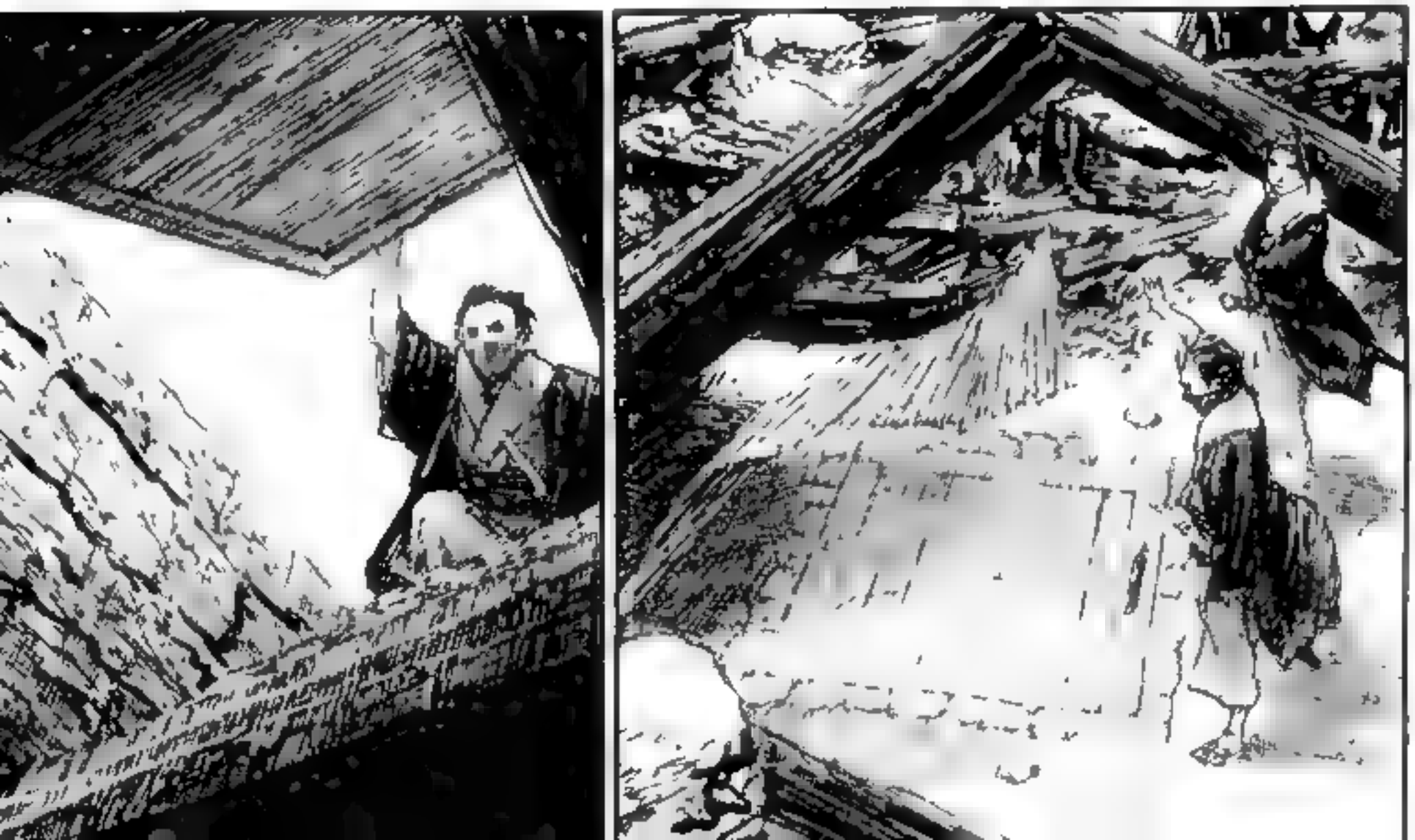


THANK YOU FOR TRAVELLING THIS LONG DISTANCE TO COME HERE.

I'M KAGEHISA ANOTSU, LEADER OF THE ITTO-RYU.

I DON'T DOUBT THAT THIS IS INDEED YOUR HEADQUARTERS, BUT WHAT HAPPENED HERE?!

EVERY-THING IS BURNT DOWN! WHAT HAVOC! THE TYRANNY FROM THE SHOGUNATE!

ANOTSU .

BEFORE WE INTRODUCE [redacted], I HAVE A QUESTION . .

WHY ?!

WHAT ?!

NO, THAT WAS OUR OWN DOING.

BUT ONLY FOOLS WOULD DO NOTHING WHEN FACED WITH SUCH DANGER.

THEY DEEMED US TO BE REBELS, WHAT HAPPENED WAS UNFOR-TUNATE .

WE ARE THE LAST SPARK AMONG THE ASHES.

IF THE SPARK STAYS IN ONE PLACE. .

...MOST OF ITS [redacted] LAST FALL DUE TO A PURGE ORDER FROM THE SHOGUN.

AS YOU KNOW, ITTO-RYU LOST . .

WE BURNT DOWN OUR DOJO TO SHOW OUR DETER-MINATION

BUT IF YOU SCATTER IT, IT MAY CAUSE A CONFLAGRATION, AS LONG AS EVERYONE KEEPS HIS OWN FIRE BURNING.

. .THEN IT'S EASILY EXTINGUISHED.

THIS PLACE WAS THOUGHT OF AS A SOURCE OF REBELS. BUT NOW THAT EVERYTHING IS BURNT DOWN, THEY AREN'T WATCHING IT.

AND ONE MORE THING . .

HM . .

I SEE . .

. FOR ME TO BE HERE AND TO MEET YOU.

THAT'S HOW IT'S [redacted]

WE . NO ..

THEN LET US ALL EXPLAIN .. WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY.

VERY CLEVER, I'M IM-PRESSED.

OKAY.

ONE EVENING, A MAN KNOCKED ON OUR DOOR. HE SAID WAS A WANDERING MONK.

MY NAME IS KUNIMITSU AMON. I OWN THE BIGGEST DOJO IN SAGAMI-YAMATO AND AM VERY PROUD OF MY STUDENTS. OUR SCHOOL'S NAME IS NAGAJO-RYU.

BUT ONCE HE CAME INSIDE, HIS BEHAVIOR DRASTICALLY CHANGED.

HE HUMBLY ASKED FOR A PLACE TO STAY.

PARDON MY INSOLENCE, BUT LET ME BEGIN WITH MY STORY . !

IF NONE OF YOU WINS AGAINST ME, THEN THIS DOJO WILL BELONG TO ITTO-RYU!

I'M MONK BOA OF ITTO-RYU!

I WANT TO FIGHT EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU.

THROW HIM OUT!

OUR MASTER DIDN'T RESPOND TO HIS THREAT.

IN THE EVENING, BASICALLY EVERY MEMBER IS AT THE DOJO. IT'S THE MOST ACTIVE TIME

WE THOUGHT HE WAS CRAZY .

AT LEAST YOU DIDN'T RUN AWAY!

BUAHA HAHA HA!

THE DOJO WAS IN THE HANDS OF A MADMAN.

WITHIN SECONDS, EVERYONE WAS LYING ON THE FLOOR, BEATEN. THE STUDENTS, THE ASSISTANT INSTRUCTORS, AND EVEN OUR MASTER

...MY ANGER HAD ALREADY EVAPORATED

BUT WHEN BOA REQUESTED SUPPORT FROM EDO

THE SIGN WAS CHANGED

BUT NOT EVERYONE THOUGHT LIKE ME .

THE SWORD SKILLS OF ITTO-RYU ARE UN-MATCHED. THE RESURRECTION OF THE WAY OF THE SAMURAI WAS AT HAND..

IT DIDN'T TAKE A DAY FOR THE SIGN TO BE TORN DOWN

ONE OF THE PROBLEMS WAS THAT HE HATED DISCUSSIONS. INSTEAD HE DRANK AND TRIED TO CONVINCE PEOPLE BY FORCE.

BECAUSE OF GOVERNMENT INTRIGUE, HE HAD TO LEAVE FOR EDO. HE DID NOT RETURN. .

TO BE HONEST, MORE THAN HALF OF THEM WERE AGAINST HIM.

BUT, MASTER ANOTSU .

THIS WAS HOW I WANTED TO BE ABLE TO FIGHT WHEN I WAS YOUNG.

HE WAS BOLD BUT ALSO SUBTLE. HE WAS SUPERIOR TO US.

.. INTO MY MEMORY.

...HIS SWORD STYLE WAS BURNT .

TO ACHIEVE THAT, I'M WILLING TO PART WITH EVERYTHING ELSE.

AND I STILL STRIVE FOR THAT TODAY!

YATSUSHIBA OF TAISUTE-RYU

...KODA AND KATSUMATA FROM NANGAI-ITTO-RYU

THIS IS MISTER KUFEHIRO FROM MY SCHOOL.

THESE TWO ARE SATAKE AND AFIUSU FROM JINEN-RYU

AND ALSO MAIRA, SHINADA, AND YATOIN OF SHINTOSHIN-RYU

WE ARE READY TO GIVE OUR LIVES AT ANY TIME. PLEASE ALLOW US THE HONOR OF JOINING ITTO-RYU!

WE ARE DEDICATED TO YOU SINCE OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH ITTO-RYU

KAGE-
HISA
.

WHATEVER THE REASON IS, IT'S KINDA SAD
.

YES
.

KAGIMURA HABAKI HAS TO COMMIT SEPPUKU

DID YOU HEAR?

...SATIS-
FYING.

BUT FOR YOU, MISTER ABAYAMA, IT MIGHT BE
.

LISTEN, ABA-YAMA ..!

THE MONK BOA, THE [redacted] THEY SPOKE OF, DID ATTEND THE BANQUET OF DEATH ..

I DON'T FEEL LIKE THAT AT ALL.

MUSASHI!

THAT MAYBE THEY LET YOU LIVE ON PURPOSE?

. WHY YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO SURVIVED?

DID YOU EVER ASK YOURSELF ..

BUT THE OTHERS WERE TRAINED AS WELL.

YOU ARE AN EXCELLENT FIGHTER, YOU ARE NO SHAME FOR ITTO-RYU

I KNOW YOUR FIGHTING STYLE FROM WHEN I WAS LITTLE ..

TWO PEOPLE ALONE KILLED THEM ALL. THEIR SKILLS ARE BY FAR SUPERIOR TO ANY NORMAL HUMAN LEVEL.

THEY WERE WEAKENED BY THE POISON, BUT STILL . .

..AND SHALLOW.

COMPARED TO THEM, WE WERE FOOLISH . .

TO DESTROY THE GROWING OPPOSITION, THE SHOGUN [redacted] FIGHTERS OF UNBELIEVABLE STRENGTH

I WILL NEVER FORGIVE KAGIMURA HABAKI.

HE BETRAYED US AND MURDERED MANY OF OUR COMRADES. I WILL KILL HIM, NO MATTER WHAT.

ON THE OTHER HAND .

ABA-YAMA . .

I THINK YOU WERE LEFT ALIVE TO DELIVER A MESSAGE

HM .

FIRST HE [redacted] HIMSELF AS AN ALLY, AND THEN . .

HE'S SUPERIOR TO US IN STRENGTH AND IN CUNNING.

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE PERSON HAS DECIDED TO FACE US!

. .I AM VERY HAPPY.

WITH HIM, THE GOVERNMENT TRULY HAS . .

. AN ACE UP ITS SLEEVE.

BUT NOW HE HAS TO COMMIT SEPPUKU .

THE STUPIDITY OF MEN IS INFINITE . .

HE WITHDREW AND ISN'T HUNTING ITTO-RYU ANYMORE.

SO WHO WAS IT? WHO ATTACKED BARO?

BUT LISTEN TO ME .

HABAKI DIDN'T RETREAT.

YOU'RE WRONG, MAGATSU

IT SEEMS THAT THE GROUP'S SOLE PURPOSE IS THE DESTRUCTION OF ITTO-RYU.

.. BUT UNTIL THE DAY OF HIS DEATH, HE WAS GIVEN LEADERSHIP OF A MYSTERIOUS ORGANIZATION

KOJI KASHIN SAID THAT HE LOST HIS POSITION AS THE CHIEF OF THE PALACE GUARDS . .

. HUNTING US.

I SEE. SO HABAKI IS NOW .

...?

HM .

IMPOS-SIBLE! FORGET IT!

SOME MAYBE, BUT . .

HM?

THEY WON'T BE ON OUR LEVEL AFTER TEN DAYS, WILL THEY?

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SKILL LEVEL OF THE PEOPLE WE JUST MET?

SAY, ABA-YAMA .

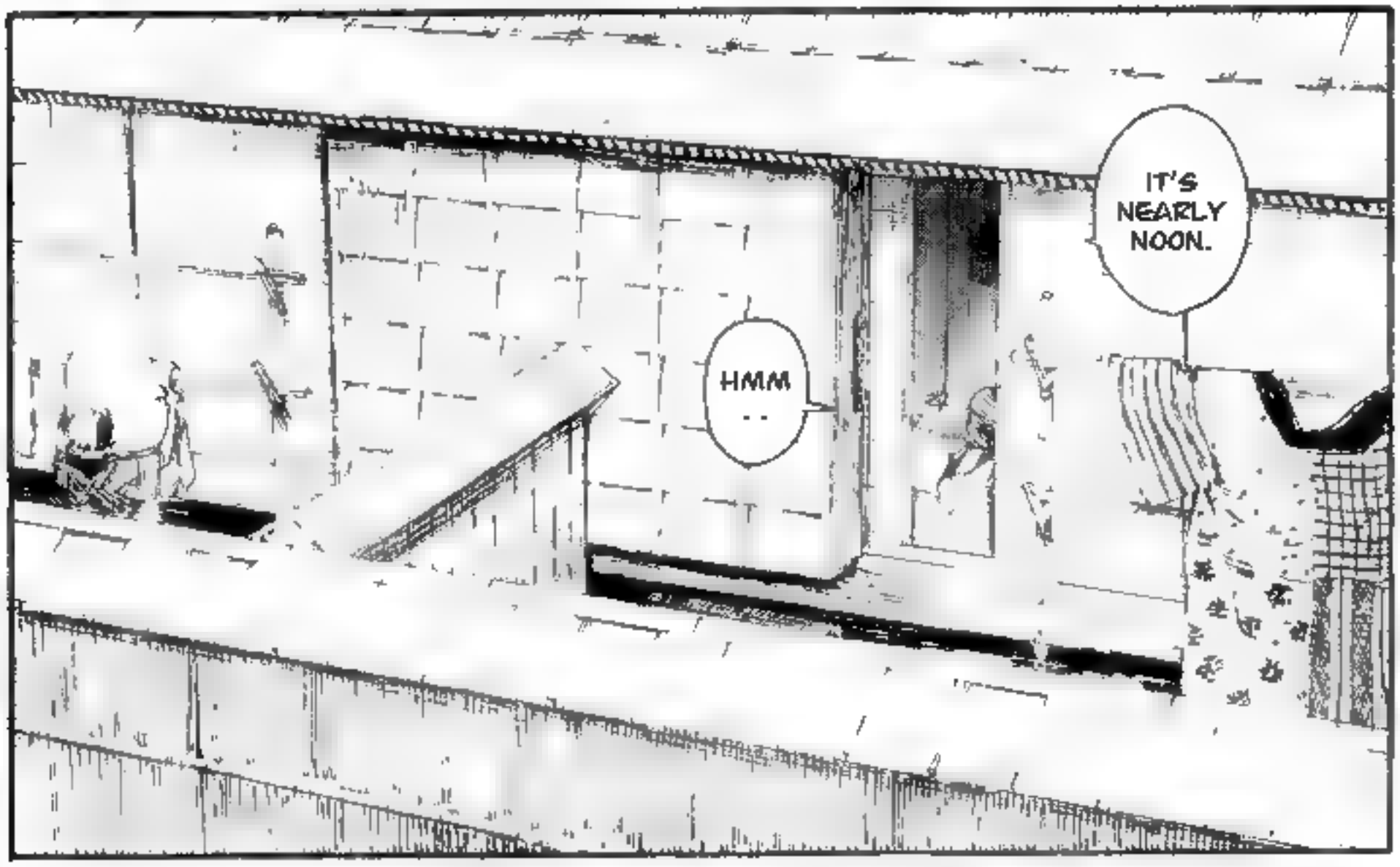
WITH THEIR ARRIVAL, ONE THING HAS BECOME CLEAR .

OKAY. GET BARO AND TRAIN THEM.

NOW WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN VENT OUR ANGER ON THE GOVERN-MENT.

IT'S GETTING SERIOUS.

HABATSU
WHAT'S YOUR PLAN ?
WE'LL CREATE A RUCKUS


IT'S NEARLY NOON.
HMM ..

HALF FULL IS ENOUGH .
WATER, OKAY.

OH, TATSU .
PLEASE FILL THIS CAN WITH WATER

HELLO, MASTER SORI!

SORRY! I CONFUSED YOUR NAMES AGAIN.

AH, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S ALREADY BEEN HALF A MONTH

I JUST CAN'T GET USED TO IT.

HAHA! THAT CONSOLES ME A LITTLE!

IF YOU WOULD GET USED TO IT TOO QUICKLY, I'M SURE TATSU WOULD BE SAD.

BUT, MASTER SORI!

THERE ARE A LOT OF STRANGE PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD.

THAT SOMEONE ACTUALLY MARRIED THAT GIRL WITH THE DIRTY MOUTH.

AS A BRIDE, THERE'S NOTHING TO HOLD AGAINST HER.

THAT RE-MINDS ME, MASTER, YOUR STUDENTS WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY. YOU HAVE TO GET UP.

MY WIFE AND OLDEST DAUGHTER HAVE ONLY BEEN GONE FOR FOUR YEARS.

SHE TOOK CARE OF HIM FOR FIVE YEARS, AFTER ALL

OTHERWISE, I WOULD'VE HAD TO EAT THE HOR-RIBLE SLOP MADE BY THAT ONE GIRL.

WHO HAS THE BAD MOUTH, NOW?

THAT'S A RELIEF

IT'S THAT LATE?

WHAT?!

I COOKED POTATOES FOR YOU THREE

DON'T PUSH SO MUCH!

MAY WE ENTER?

DON'T PUSH!

GOOD DAY, MASTER!

HELLO! I'M LEAVING.

DAMN, SHE'S HERE

YOU DIDN'T EAT ANYTHING YET, DID YOU ..? YOU WANT TO JOIN?

HELLO, SIR

YOU CAN SET THE TABLE AND WASH THE DISHES.

HM? YES!

YES, MASTER!

I'LL COOK.

...

SORRY

NOT NECESSARY, RIN ALREADY COOKED

HEY, RIN, YOU AREN'T GOING TO EAT ANYTHING?

SEE YA!

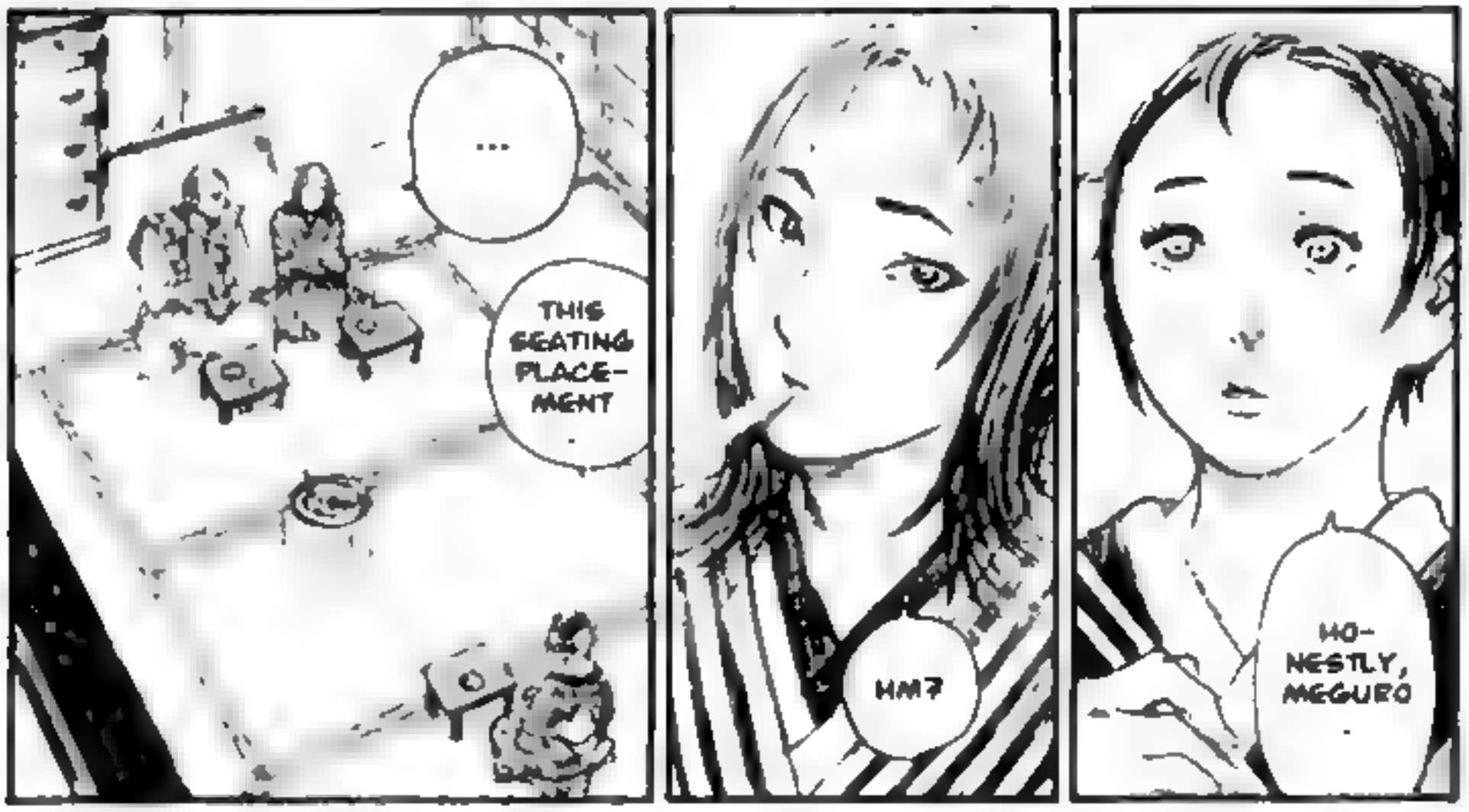
SO, SEE YOU!

AH, THANKS!

HERE ARE THE DRAWINGS YOU ASKED FOR.

I HAVE TO BRING MANJI HIS FOOD.

NO.


...
THIS SEATING PLACE-MENT
HM?
HO-NESTLY, MEGURO

AND THE FISH WON'T BITE !

SO COLD !

ABOUT TIME THAT RIN COMES WITH THE FOOD

NORMALLY, I WOULD'VE MADE PREPA-RATIONS FOR WINTER

BUT THANKS TO HABAKI, I NEVER WAS ABLE TO

I NEVER MANAGED TO CATCH ANYTHING THERE EITHER

SHOULD I GO BACK TO MY PREVIOUS HUTZ NO

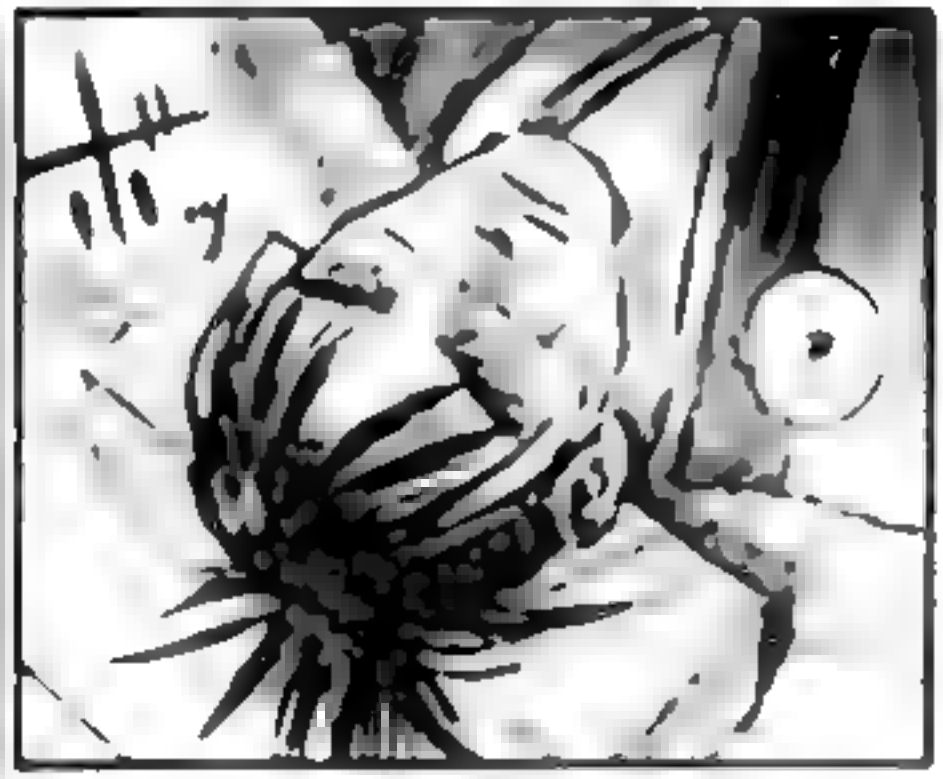
TZZ!

TIME TO EAT

NO MORE FISHING!

HMM ?

!



HUAAAAH...!

I SEE THE CLOSE SEASON FOR .

..GUINEA PIGS IS OVER.

HEHE HE...!

...

FINALLY A REAL FIGHT, EH. .?!

I WAITED FOR THIS .

YOU WILL DIE ..

WHO . ?

...

...SUKEZANE BARO OF ITTO-RYU!

CHAPTER 137 | END

※第百三十八幕※

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〈其の二〉

CHAPTER 138: VISIT

– PART 2 –

Art by Tan-popo

Attractive

scar

Holes

long sword

ASKING THE VILLAGERS PAID OFF.

YES.

WE FOUND HIM FASTER THAN I EXPECTED.

OUR SURPRISE ATTACK CAUGHT HIM OFF GUARD.

YES.

LOOK! HE'S GOT NEITHER A LONG NOR A BROAD SWORD.

DAMN IT! WHAT ARE YOU IDIOTS TALKING ABOUT ...?!

YES.

WE CAN TAKE HIM ON ALONE, RIGHT?

EASILY.

DON'T BE BIGEY, SUKEZANE BARO!

BUT YOU KILLED FIVE OF OUR COMRADES!

WE CAN'T LET YOU ESCAPE UNHARMED!

WHO YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

I HAVE NO IDEA . .

GO TO HELL AND ASK THE DEVIL!

Attractive
scar
sword

HOW SHOULD I KNOW ?!
WHAT HAPPE-NED TO YOUR LONG SWORD ?!
WHAT KIND OF WEAPON IS THAT ?!
HE... HE... HEY...!

HNGH!

DAMN IT...!

BUAAH!

HUAAH!

ASS-HOLES!

IT WASN'T EASY TO BUILD THIS HUT WITH JUST ONE ARM!

AND YOU BURNT IT DOWN...!

HEY, STOP!

HELP!

HANA-GUMI! I HAVE TO..!

DAMN..!

ARGH!

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

HEY!

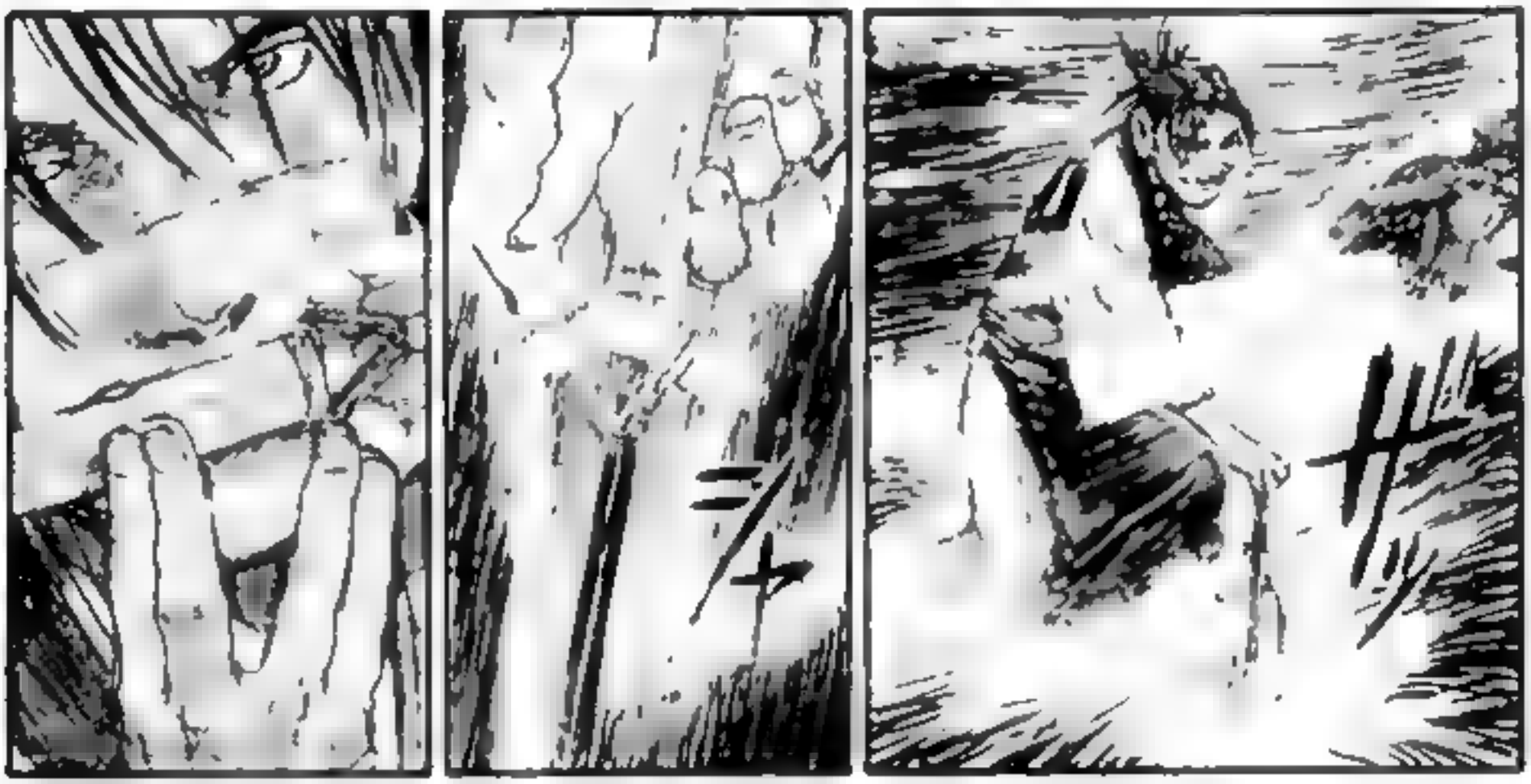
WHY DID YOU ATTACK ON A WHIM?

IT WAS ..

HMPH!

HUA AH!

UU UUH ...



MANJI
II

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER, RIN!

WAIT THERE!

...

!!

UAH!

HALT, STOP !!

DAMN! WHAT THE FUCK ?!

ARE YOU SUKEZANE BARO OF ITTO-RYU?

ONE QUES-TION, OKAY?

STOP, TARIESHIN! SHE CALLED HIM "MANJI"

THE "HUND-RED MAN KILLER" ..?!

SO WHAT ..?!

HOW OFTEN DO I HAVE TO REPEAT MYSELF? I DON'T KNOW ANY SUKEZANE BARO!

...

WHAT? WAIT A SECOND!

LET'S GO, TARI-ESHIN!

TZZ!

DON'T GET COCKY!

FIRST YOU ALMOST KILL ME, AND NOW YOU DON'T EVEN SAY SORRY?!

I'LL CUT YOU TO PIECES!

AFTER ALL .

BE HAPPY THAT YOU AREN'T OUR TARGET!

[illegible] LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN WHEN HE'S [illegible] ATTACKED!

BUT THAT'S NOT IN OUR INTEREST.

. YOU KILLED THREE OF OUR MEN THAT WOULD BE ENOUGH REASON TO KILL YOU.

WELL, SEE YA.

OR DO YOU WANT TO RISK IT?

WE ARE CLOSER TO THE GIRL THAN YOU ARE IF WE WERE TO FIGHT NOW ..

MANJI!

DAMN IT! NO TIME TO TALK!

MANJI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

THEY THOUGHT I WAS ITTO-RYU .

WHO WERE THEY?

EH? THEY WEREN'T ITTO-RYU GUYS?

IT LOOKED LIKE IT, BUT .

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!

WAIT, TATSU-MASAAA !!

MOVE IT!

MANJI, YOU DON'T PLAN ON . ?!

GRAAAH!

MANJI, YOUR HEAD IS ON FIRE!

FUCK! WHAT RUB■ISH!

WOLF OF MUKOJIMA AND DOG OF CHIYODA! A MEETING ON A SHIP IS BEING REQUESTED, TO TALK. DATE AND PLACE: 10TH OF THE 12TH MONTH, ISHIHARA BRIDGE; SIGNED: UGEN HANABUSA, CHIEF OF THE PALACE GUARDS.

"WOLF OF MUKOJIMA" .. WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

WELL -

BLAH -

BLAH -

THEY TALK ABOUT OUR LEADER

"WOLF OF MUKOJIMA AND DOG OF CHIYODA! A MEETING ON"..

DOCTOR MIZUSHINA IS A BIG HELP . .

YES . .

MEDICINE ?

YOU MEAN THE MIRACLE CURE BY ASAEMON?

NO ONE CAN DISPUTE HIS SKILL.

DID YOU TRY THE MEDICINE I GAVE YOU?

YES . .

DID YOU SEE THE SIGN?

AM I SUPPOSED TO EAT HUMAN LIVER...?

WILL YOU MEET HIM?

IT WAS SIGNED BY UGEN HANABUSA.

HE'S THE NEW CHIEF OF THE PALACE GUARDS. SO HE IS HABAKI'S SUCCESSOR.

BEFORE IT STARTS, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHOM WE'RE FACING.

YES, I INTEND TO.

I THINK IT'S A TRAP . .

YES, PERHAPS.

NO .

WE WERE CARELESS.

IF HE'S ABLE TO SET A TRAP FOR US . .

PERHAPS I WOULD PREFER IT IF IT WAS A TRAP.

...IT WON'T GO THAT WAY.

BUT, HOPE-FULLY . .

. .THEN IT'S NOT A BAD WAY TO DIE

...!!

?!

COUGH!

NO ..

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER ..!

MAKIE!

COUGH!

OUCH ...

IT'S INFEC-TIOUS

AH ..!

THEY SAY IT'S NOT VERY CONTA-GIOUS

I TOLD YOU, IT'S CONTAGIOUS

...

BUT THEY ALSO SAY IT'S INCU-RABLE

MUST BE KARMA

MY PARENTS DIED OF THE SAME DISEASE

HEHE

THAT REMINDS ME OF SHISA-KAMA

KAGEHISA
..

YOU'LL GET WELL AGAIN!

EVEN THE BEST DOCTOR CAN BE MISTAKEN!

IF KARMA CAUSED SICKNESS, THEN I WOULD BE DEAD!

DON'T TALK LIKE THAT!

HA..!

HA..!

HA..!

YOUR WIFE
..

YOUR KARMA
..

IS
IN FRONT
OF YOU

HO, HO! LO AND BEHOLD!

DON'T MIND HIM.

THE ENEMY OF THE STATE HAS A WEAKNESS FOR WOMEN OF THAT CRAFT... I WOULDN'T HAVE SUSPECTED THAT

IS SHE A WHORE OR A BEGGAR WOMAN?

...LEADER OF ITTO-RYU!

ENTER, KAGEHISA ANOTSU..

CHAPTER 138 | END

CHAPTER 138: VISIT
– PART 2 –

❖第百三十九幕❖
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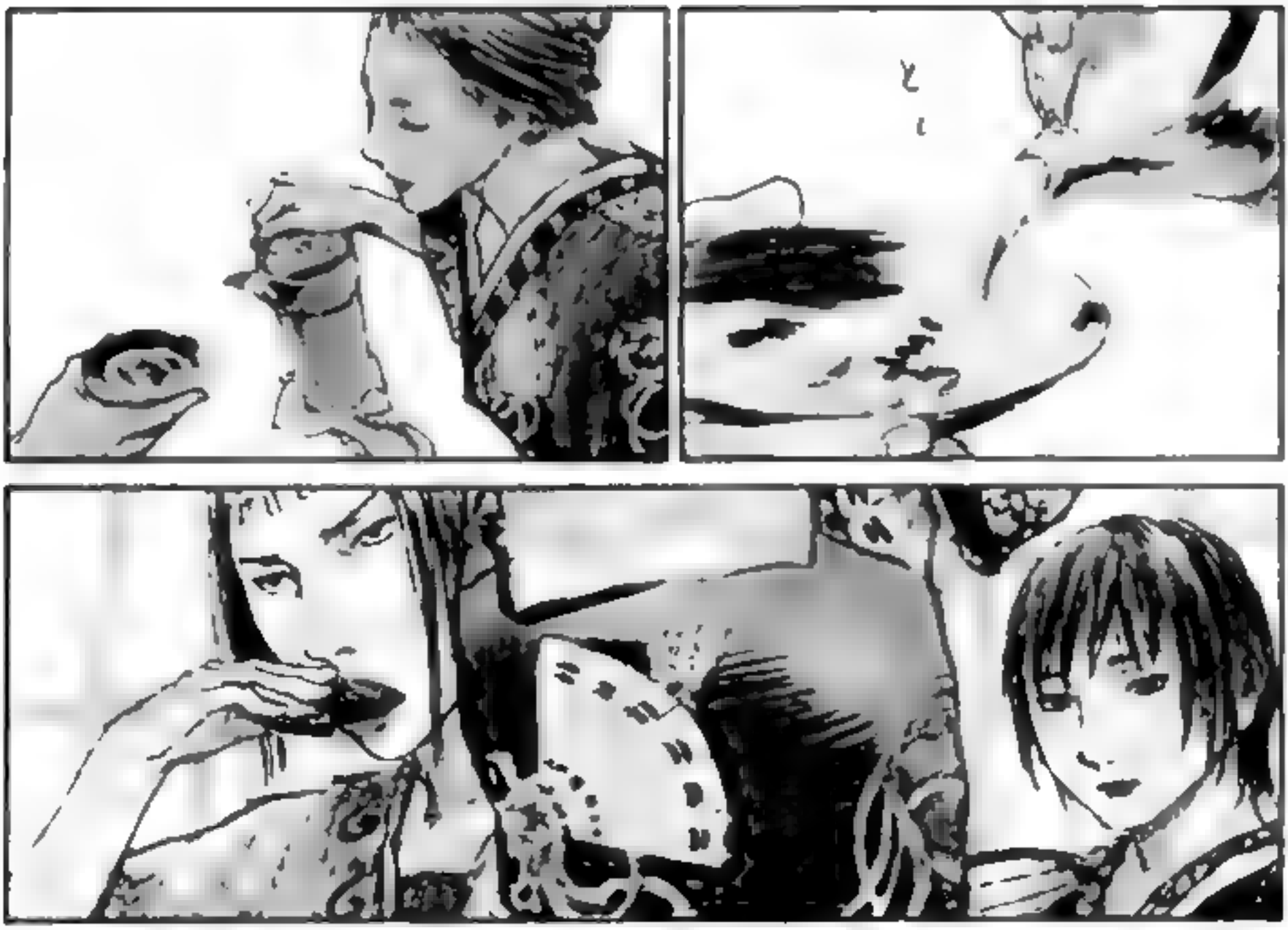

OH, THANKS!

SADLY, IT'S DURING THE WRONG SEASON

IT'S TOO COLD TO OPEN THE WINDOWS. IF THE BOAT HAD A HEART, IT WOULD CRY

A FEAST ON A PLEASURE BOAT TO GET RID OF SOME-ONE?

TO BE HONEST, I'M SUR-PRISED.

NOW, ANOTSU, HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

IF YOU HADN'T APPEARED, I WOULD'VE HAD TO CELEBRATE ON MY OWN. LUCKILY, WE MANAGED TO AVOID THE MIDDAY COLD.

YOU EMBARRASS ME, BUT YOU'RE TOTALLY RIGHT.

THEN I WOULD HAVE SEEMED LIKE AN IDIOT.

HAHA, IS THAT SO ..

NO, I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T.

DID YOU EXPECT ME TO COME?

YOUR DOJO IS BURNT DOWN, AFTER ALL.

HOW ELSE WAS I SUPPOSED TO FIND YOU?

NO, NO IF YOU HADN'T APPEARED, THEN I WOULD'VE CONTINUED WITH THE SIGNS.

THAT'S NO PROBLEM AT A LANDING SITE

THAT'S WHY YOU CAME HALF AN HOUR BEFORE OUR MEETING.

DID YOU FIND ANYONE?

YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A TRAP. THAT I HID ARCHERS.

I CAN GUESS WHAT WENT ON IN YOUR HEAD . .

I COULD SIT DOWN WHEREVER I WANTED . .

AND WHAT DID I TELL YOU BEFORE WE SAT DOWN?

WE BOTH HANDED OUR WEAPONS OVER

NO . .

IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO POISON YOU THAT WAY.

AND WE BOTH DRINK FROM THE SAME SAKE PITCHER.

I THINK THAT'S A VERY IMPORTANT FACT

THAT'S CORRECT

SO YOU DON'T PLAN AN AMBUSH?

HABAKI IS DETERMINED TO DESTROY ITTO-RYU

MISTER ANOTSU, I'M NOT LIKE KAGIMURA HABAKI.

IF YOU COOPERATE, THEN I'M WILLING TO SPARE YOU.

I THINK DIFFERENTLY.

カ!!

. ITTO-RYU WILL HAVE TO BE ELIMINATED

. .TO NEITHER OUR LORDS, SAMURAI, POLICE OFFICERS, NOR THE PEOPLE

OTHER-WISE . .

I WANT YOUR PROMISE THAT ITTO-RYU WILL NEVER AGAIN BE A DANGER . .

COOPE-RATE .?

NUMEROUS GUARDS HAVE TESTIFIED THAT . .

. THEY SAW [redacted] OF ITTO-RYU INFILTRATING THE PALACE AT THE TIME OF THE UPHEAVAL OF FUKIAGE

THINK ABOUT YOUR SITUATION

HM .. IF YOU ADMIT IT, THEN . .

MISTER ANOTSU . .

I'D LIKE TO PLAY DUMB, BUT I GUESS THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE

DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT?

A SURPRISINGLY MILD DECREE. !

.THE ORDER WAS GIVEN TO EXPEL ITTO-RYU FROM EDO.

BECAUSE OF THE RECENT EVENTS .

IF THERE WAS AN OFFICIAL DECREE, THINGS WOULD LOOK DIFFERENT!

YES, ONE COULD SAY THAT!

MILD?! HAHAHA...! MILD...!

EVERY MEMBER OF ITTO-RYU WOULD BE CONVICTED OF MURDER, AND YOUR SEVERED HEAD WOULD BE DISPLAYED AT THE PRISON GATE! YOUR FAMILY WOULD BE FINISHED AT ONCE

EXACTLY!

NO. I WOULD RESIST.

BUT YOU WOULDN'T ACCEPT .

..SUCH A JUDGEMENT PEACEFULLY

AND I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT A FORCE TEN TIMES STRONGER.

SUPERIOR SKILL CAN ONLY GET YOU SO FAR. WE HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE TO OVERWHELM BY NUMBERS.

I DON'T WANT TO FOOL YOU . .

IF THE SHOGUNATE WAS SERIOUS IN DESTROYING ITTO-RYU, YOU WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE

ON THE OTHER HAND, IT'S OUR JOB TO KEEP PEACE

EDO WILL NOT BECOME A FIGHTING GROUND THE IMPORTANT VASSALS OF THE SHOGUN MUST NOT BE HARMED

WELL, MISTER ANOTSU, WILL YOU ACCEPT THE OFFER?

THE COUNCIL TOOK THAT INTO ACCOUNT

KAGIMURA HABAKI'S MISMANAGE-MENT WAS THE CAUSE OF THE UNREST

WHAT IF I SAY NO?

THIS MEANS WAR.

I WILL HOPE YOU WON'T TAKE THAT PATH.

...

MY TWENTY UNITS AGAINST ITTO-RYU!

.. THEN I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.

IF YOU HAVE TO BE SO RELENT-LESS ..

THAT'S NOT A QUESTION OF POSSIBILITY.

I HAVE TO DO MY DUTY ..

YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE TO KILL ME NOW

HAHA, I SEE .

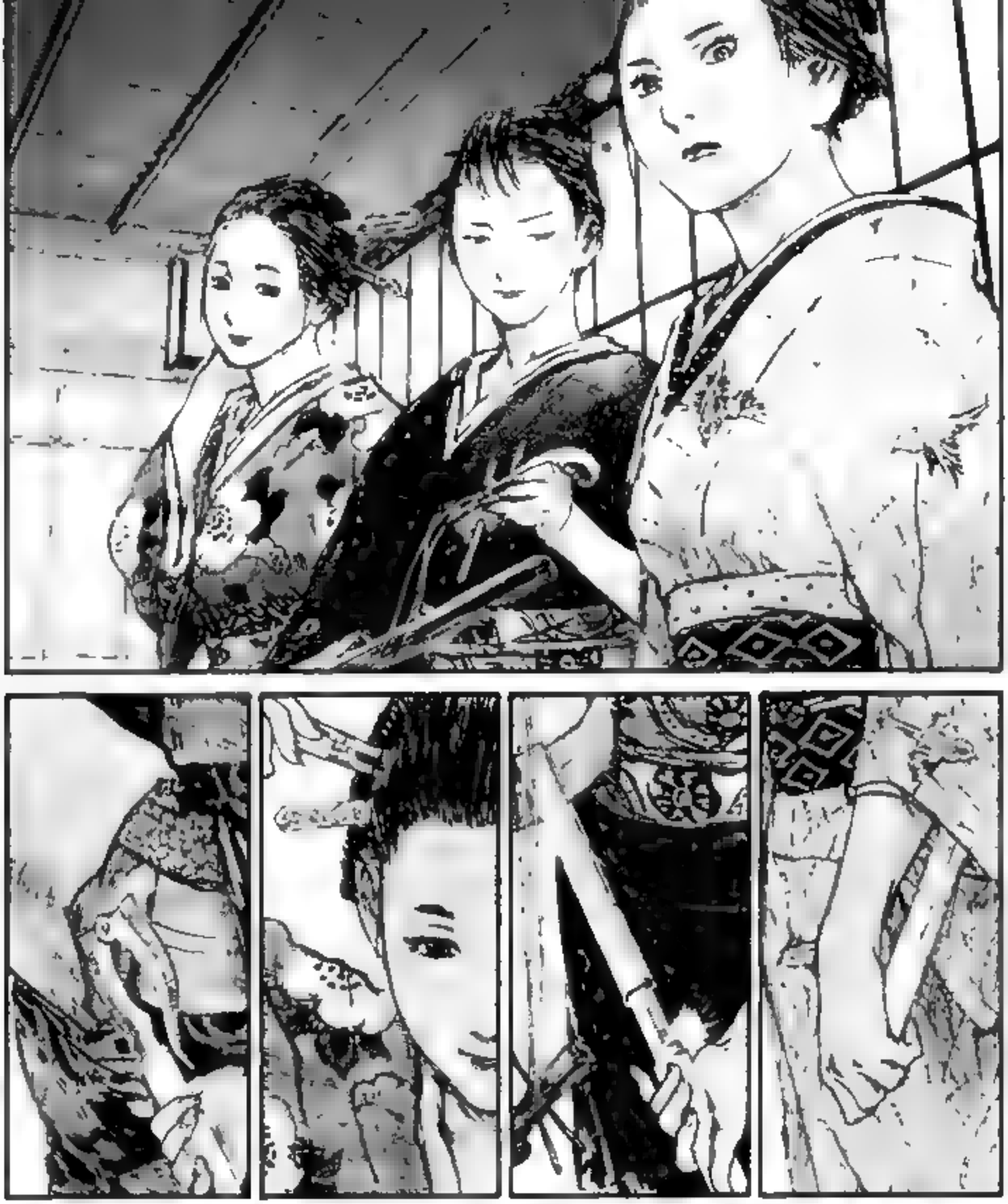
BUT I DON'T HAVE THE DESIRE TO FIGHT A LONG WAR

IF I KILL YOU NOW, ITTO-RYU WILL FALL APART SOON

NOW!

IF YOU SAY NO, THEN I WILL KILL YOU TODAY .. NO ..

I WILL NOT LET A CHANCE PASS.



I SAID I DON'T PLAN AN AMBUSH AND I DON'T INTEND TO USE THAT OPTION

MISTER ANOTSU . .

OR DO YOU WANT TO SAVE YOURSELF ..

.. BY JUMPING THROUGH THE WINDOW?

I PLEAD WITH YOU.. ACCEPT THE ORDER!

THIS ATTRACTIVE YOUNG WOMAN IS NO NORMAL PROSTITUTE. SHE'S PROBABLY YOUR LOVER DO YOU WANT TO SEE HOW SHE'LL BE KILLED?

WHAT WOULD BECOME OF YOUR ESCORT?

!

HIII .

?

THREATS ARE NOT NEEDED

I'VE DECIDED ALREADY

MISTER HANA-BUSA ..

THE FOUR CAN SHEATH THEIR WEAPONS

. I ALREADY TALKED TO MY COMRADES ABOUT THE RELOCATION OF OUR HEAD-QUARTERS.

TO BE HONEST . .

I HUMBLY ACCEPT YOUR OFFER

IF IT'S LIKE THAT .

SIT DOWN! SIT DOWN!

OH...?

OH!

FABULOUS!

THAT'S EXCELLENT!

THANK YOU.

POUR SOME FOR ANOTSU AND FOR HIS ESCORT.

HELP YOURSELF!

ALLOW ME ONE QUESTION ...!

WELL, THEN ...

THAT MAKES THINGS A LOT EASIER NOW ...

ANY IDEA WHO THEY WERE?

HE SAID THEY KNEW HE WAS ITTO-RYU.

YES, PLEASE?

ONE OF MY PEOPLE WAS ATTACKED NEAR HONGO BY FIVE MASKED ASSASSINS.

A GROUP OF FIGHTERS TRAINED BY KAGIMURA HABAKI

THEY BELONG TO THE ROKKI-DAN

OH WELL, I GUESS I CAN TELL YOU .

THOSE WEREN'T MY MEN, MR. ANOTSU.

INTERES-TING..

ROKKI .?

EVEN AFTER HIS RESIGNATION, HABAKI JUST COULDN'T LEAVE THE ITTO-RYO ALONE

THE COUNCIL RELUCTANTLY AGREED .

LET ME EXPLAIN .

OH! I GET IT .

YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES IN EDO ..

ROKKI-DAN IS NO ORDINARY GOVERNMENT UNIT

VERY WELL. TOMORROW, I'LL SEE TO IT THAT THEY WON'T HUNT YOU ANYMORE

THAT'S EMBARRASSING; I SHOULD'VE PAID MORE ATTENTION . .

YES, A BIT . .

THEY ARE NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE ACTIVITES OF THE SHOGUNATE . .

..AND HAVE TO OBEY THE COMMAND OF THE AUTHORI-TIES.

OF COURSE.

YOU CAN DO THAT . ?

..HABAKI HAD TO MAKE A PROMISE.

THAT'S NO PROBLEM. TO GET THE PERMISSION FOR ROKKI-DAN .

THAT'S REASSURING . .

AS I AM THE HEAD OF THE PALACE GUARDS, THEY HAVE TO OBEY MY COMMANDS

IN OTHER WORDS . .

EXCUSE MY QUESTION .

.. BUT WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO AFTER YOU LEAVE EDO?

MR ANOTSU .

WELL. WE'RE GOING TO HEAD SOUTH FIRST.

I'LL SETTLE SOMEWHERE IN SATSUMA AND THINK ABOUT HOW TO CONTINUE.

SATSUMA . ?

THAT'S VERY FAR AWAY .

MY ROOTS LIE IN THE SOUTH

IT'LL BE SOMEWHAT OF A HOME-COMING.

HOW NICE THAT OUR MEETING WAS SO FRUITFUL.

I'M VERY HAPPY THAT THERE WAS NO BLOODSHED.

OH, I SEE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

PLEASE ASK ME IF YOU NEED ANYTHING - PASSPORTS OR THE LIKE!

I'M ALSO HAPPY THAT NO WOMEN HAD TO DIE UNNECESSARILY

YES, ABSOLUTELY.

THEREFORE? WHY...?

AND THEREFORE HE'S ALLOWED TO SLEEP IN MY ROOM?

THAT'LL COME TO A BAD END

RIN IS BACK... WITH A MAN.

WATCH OUT! THE EXPENSIVE CHINA BLUE!

BUT NO! THINK! "MANJI" ..

SO WHAT? THE NAME ISN'T IMPORTANT ..

THE GUY'S NAME IS "MANJI," MEGURO ..

HM?!

MR HABAKI SAID THAT THE HUNDRED MAN KILLER'S NAME IS MANJI ..

YES.

ONLY YOU!

WE ARE NO GOOD ...

YOU THINK SO? MAYBE ..

IF IT WERE THE SAME GUY, THEN MASTER SORI WOULD'VE KNOWN ..

THIS HAS TO BE SOMEONE DIFFERENT ..

WHAT?!

OH! LOOKS LIKE HE'LL STAY HERE FOR A WHILE

I WANT A BOY

I'M TRYING HARD

THE TENDER WORDS IN BED ...

MEGURO

I DON'T NEED ANY EAVES-DROP-PERS!

I GOT OUT A LOT

THE TALKS ON THE VERANDA.

THERE'S MORE.

I WILL KICK HIM OUT!

I WON'T ALLOW THAT!

MEGURO, THIS IS NOT YOUR HOUSE ...

I WON'T PERMIT ANY MORE UNINVITED GUESTS TO DISTURB MY HONEYMOON WITH MASTER GORI!!

SHUT UP, IDIOT!

WE'RE ONLY HERE DURING THE DAY

YOU'RE FANTA-SIZING AGAIN

SOME-THING THE MATTER ?

NO. . I JUST SENSE A STRONG HOSTILITY ..

THAT REMINDS ME ..

RIN, I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING..!

FOOD ..?

I'M HUNGRY AND CHARRED ..!

GUAH! I'M DONE!

I'LL OPEN THE FOOD PACKET

...

HM?

TASTY?

LISTEN!

JUST SO YOU KNOW ..!

MY RIGHT ARM IS FINE!

YES

I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT MY LEFT ARM

WELL... WITH YOUR SHOUT, YOU SAVED ME, BUT

I NEARLY GOT KILLED

HEHE

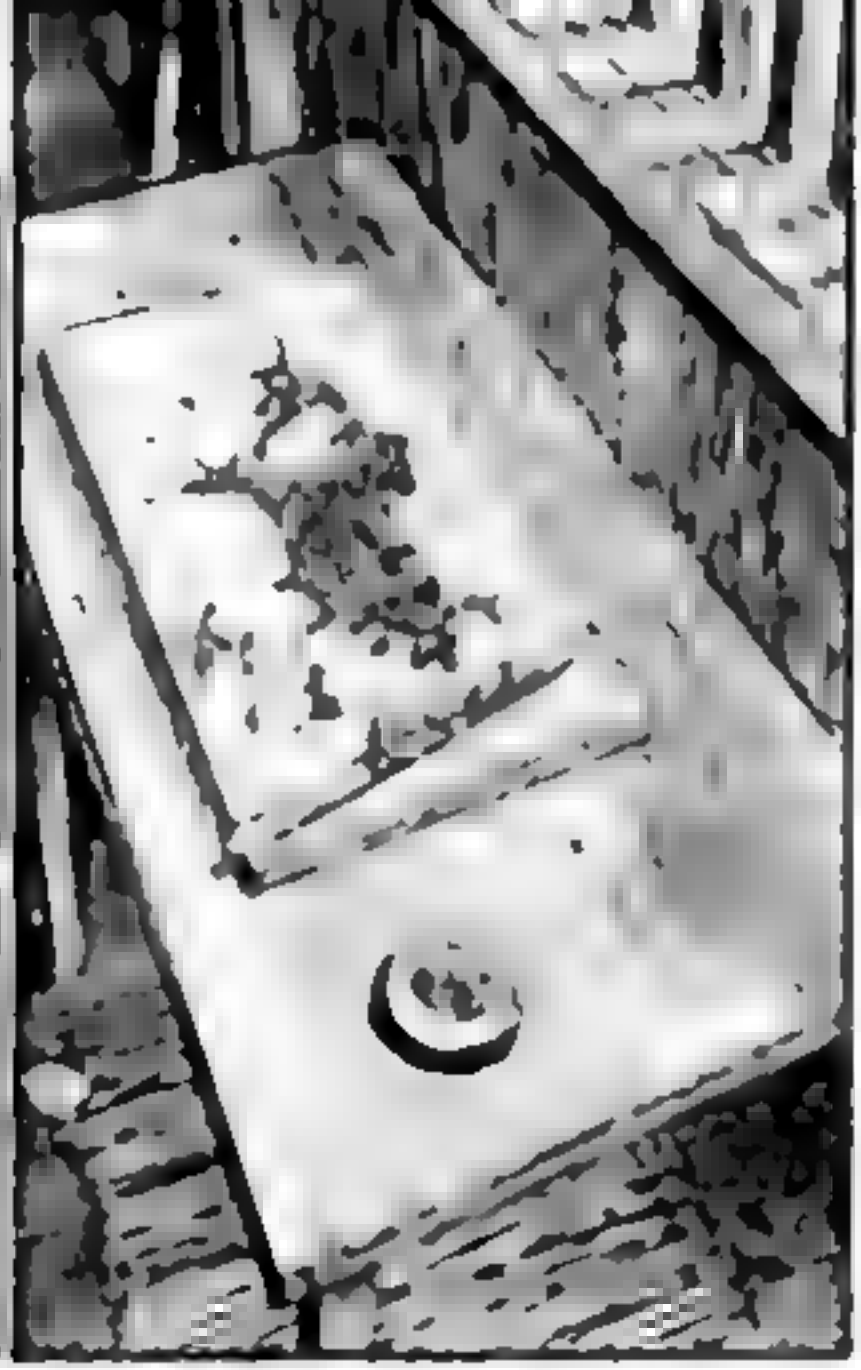
THE OTHER VOICE I CAN VAGUELY REMEMBER

YES BESIDES

ENOUGH

AND THE BOY IS REALLY ARAYA KAWAKAMI'S SON?

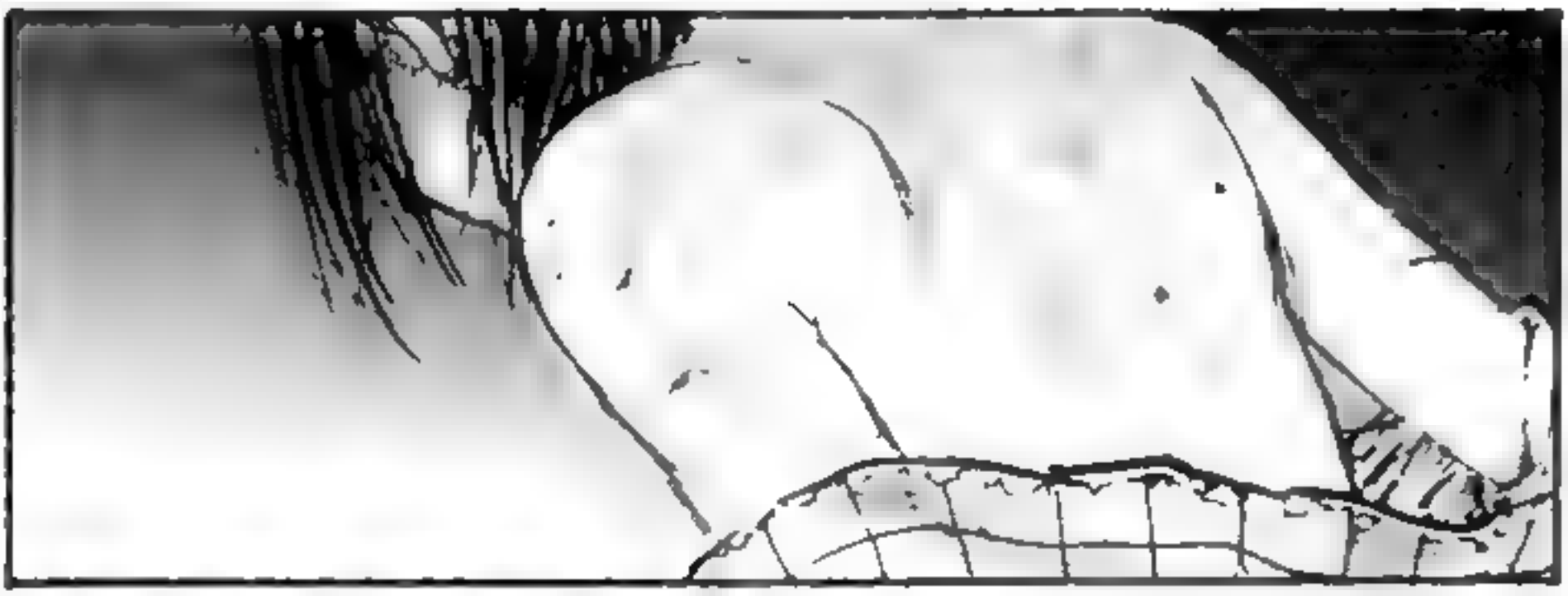
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ..?
THE BOY AND HIM .

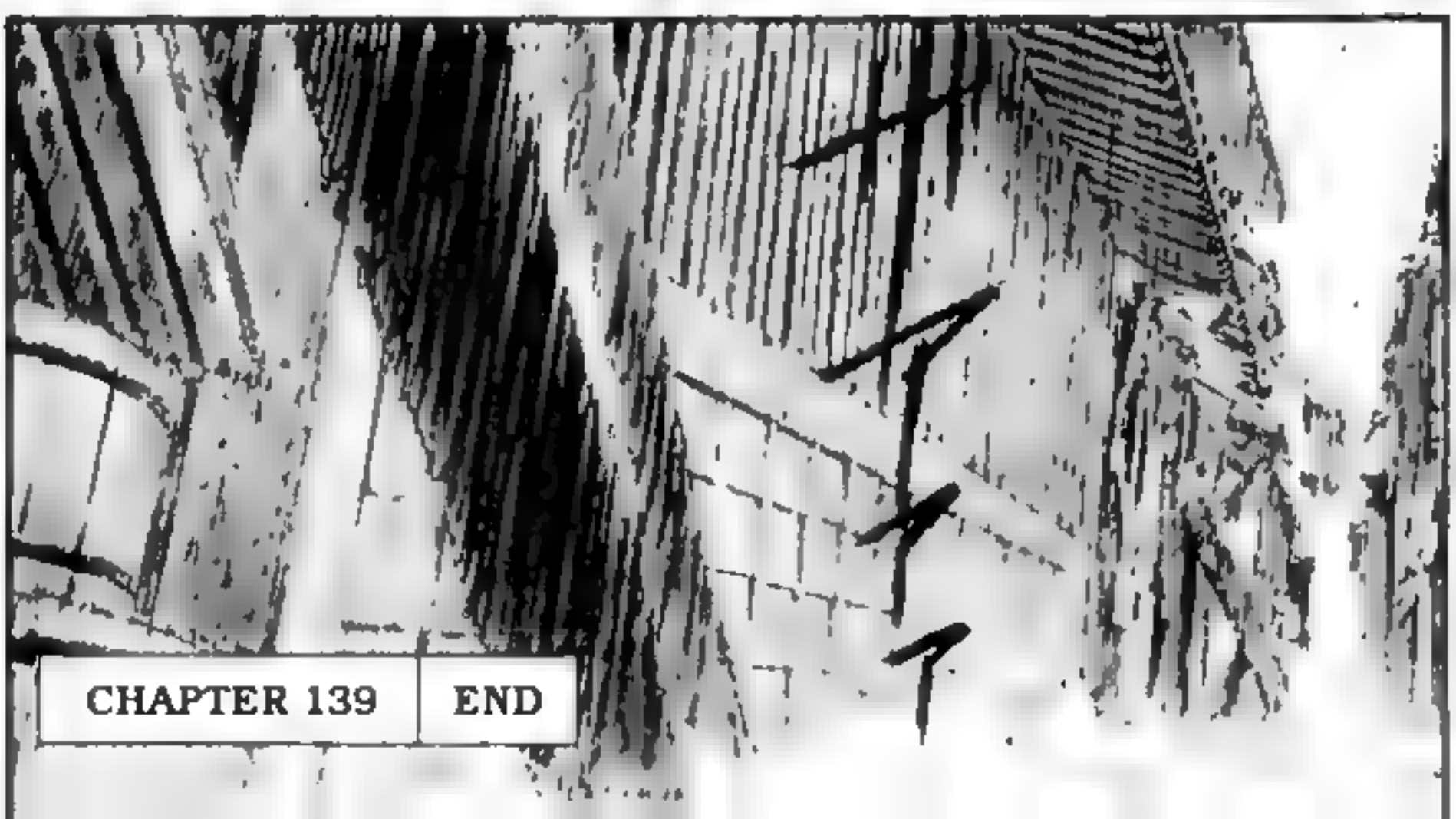


WHAT'S THAT?
THIS FOOD IS NOT GOOD.
AH!

EAT
WHAT WOULD THAT?
COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST HAVE CAUGHT A DOG?

ARE YOU DUMB?
I AM VEGETABLE
VEGETABLE
YOU FORGET THE FOOD

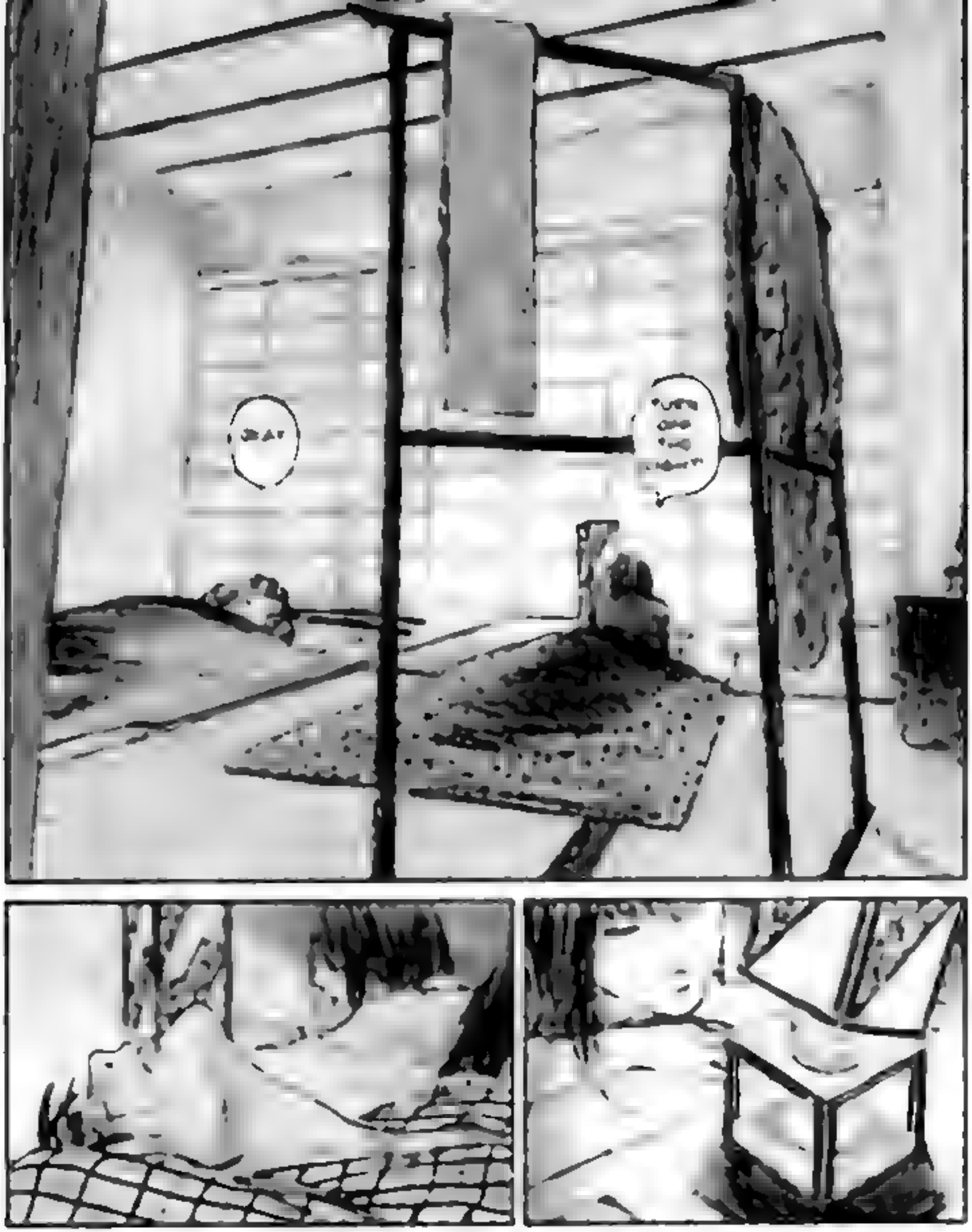




CHAPTER 139 | END

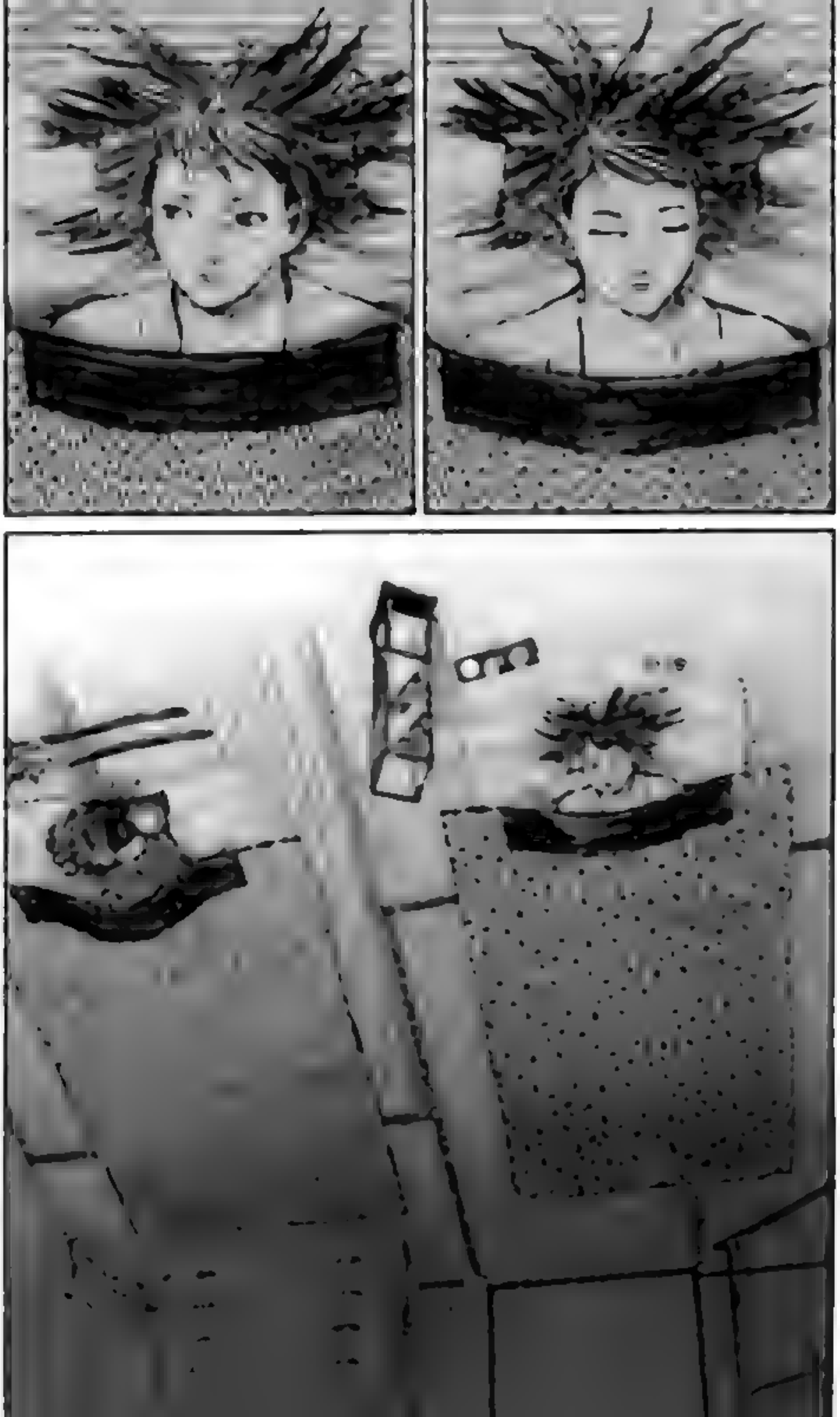
❖第百四十幕❖
夜掬

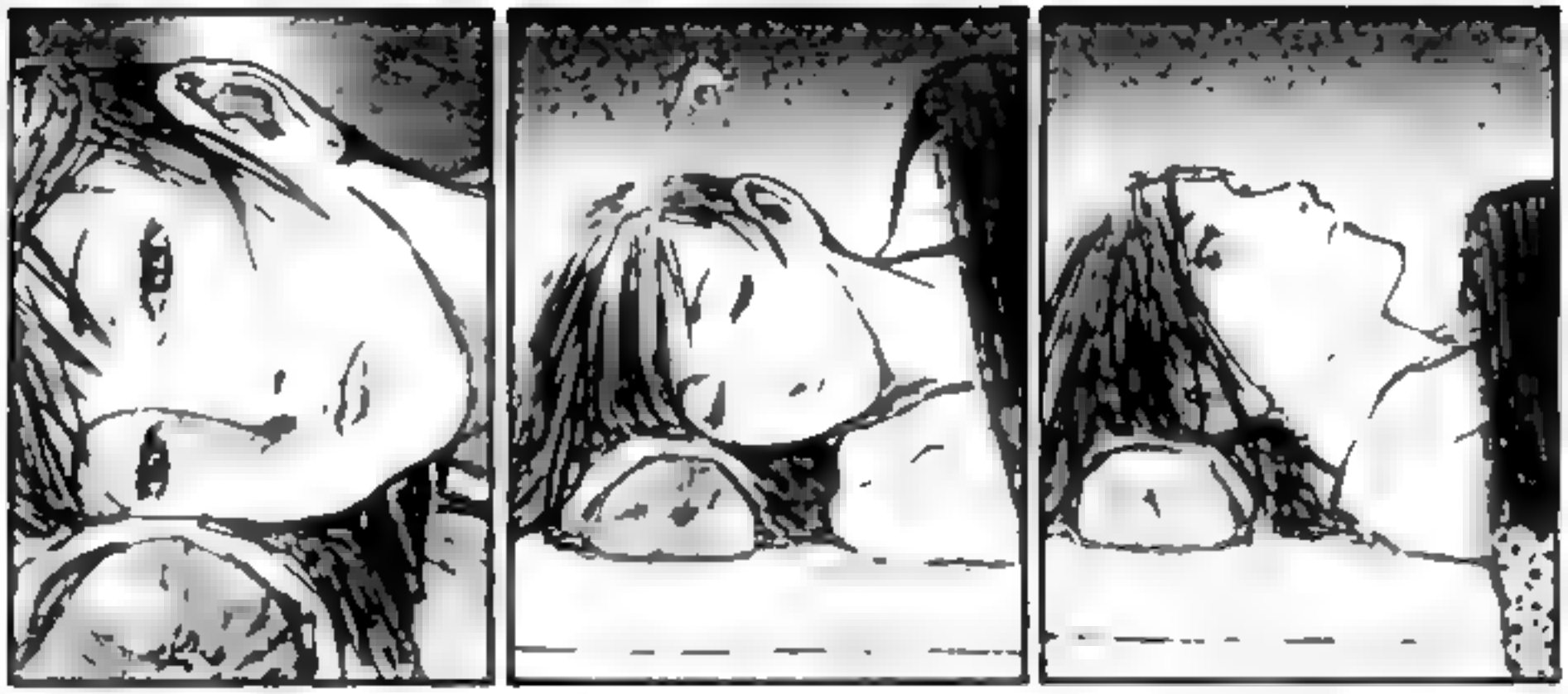
CHAPTER 140:
NIGHT TALKS


IT'S PRETTY BRIGHT
YES

COMPLETELY,
IT IMMEDIATELY
GROWS BACK

I WANT TO
SLEEP, I'M
COMPLETELY
EXHAUSTED





SAY, MANJI, CAN'T WE TALK A BIT?

YOU ONLY HAVE TO LISTEN ...

DAMN! STOP SINGING!

A young woman of [illegible] years ran to the [illegible] bridge. She gave the guard a penny as a toll and moved to pass. But then he cried, "The penny is missing!" She answered, But I just want to go to the middle to jump off the bridge.

JUST FALL ASLEEP IF YOU'RE TIRED.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE SLEPT IN ONE ROOM ...

OKAY ...

YOU KNOW ...

LATELY I'VE BEEN DREAMING ABOUT HOW WE MET IN KAGA.

AND IF AWESOME MANJI ..

..IS IMPRISONED IN A DUNGEON, THEN HE HAS TO GET RESCUED BY A GIRL. THAT'S HOW IT ENDS

SINCE OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER, THAT WAS THE MOMENT I'VE LIKED THE MOST.

THANKS .

I WAS SAD, AND I WAS HAPPY ..

THAT DAY WAS SPECIAL .

WHAT? THE ONLY .?!

SINCE OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER, THAT WAS THE FIRST MOMENT I FOUND YOU GREAT

YES.

REALLY ?

HEHE .

BUT YOU DID A GREAT JOB.

NEVER DO THAT AGAIN, UNDERSTOOD?

LISTEN, RIN, SO YOU KNOW. !

NO, FORGET IT ..!

IT WAS OKAY THAT YOU WENT ALONE TO KAGA.

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN HOW [redacted] YOU ARE WITH ANOTSU .

IT WAS MY OWN MIS-TAKE

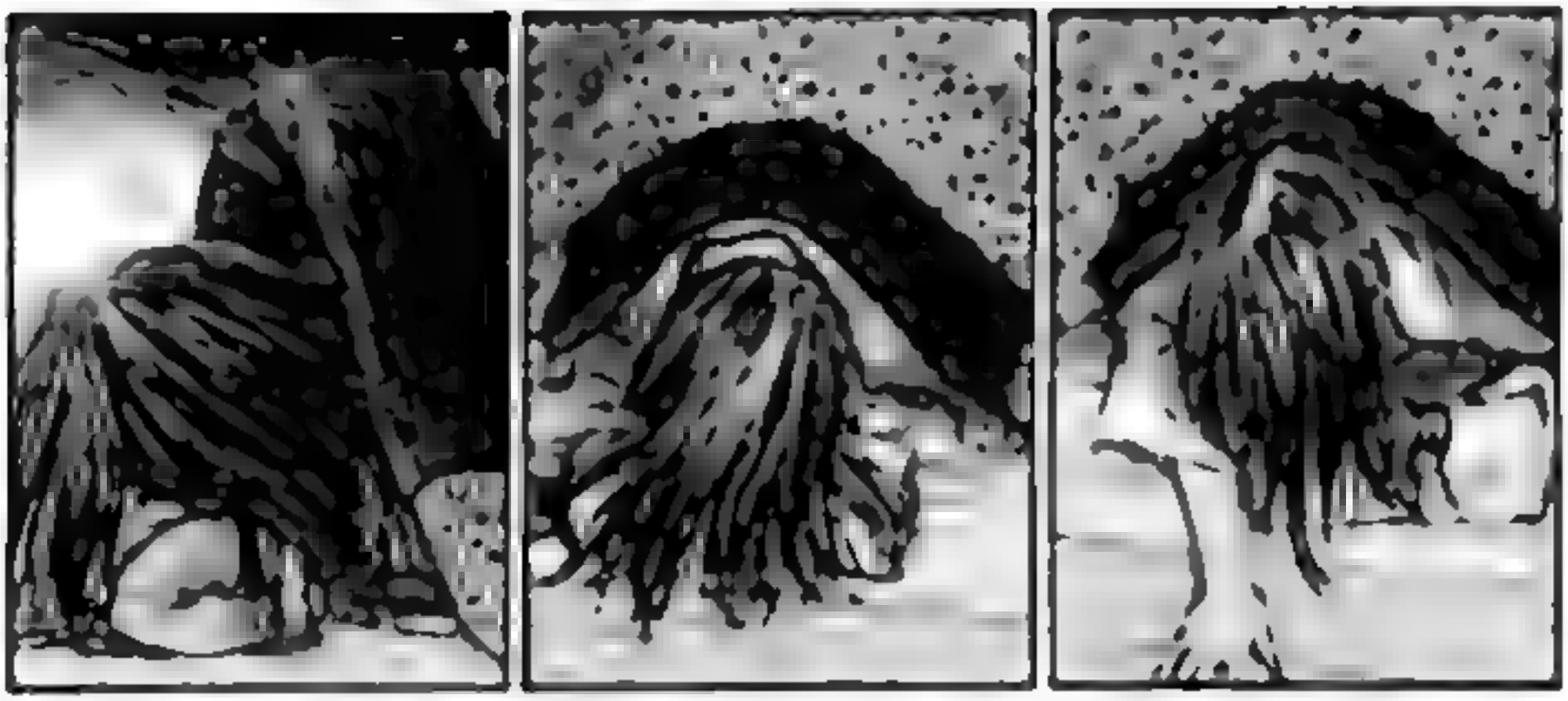
WHEN YOU FIRST MENTIONED IT, I SHOULD'VE GONE WITH YOU.

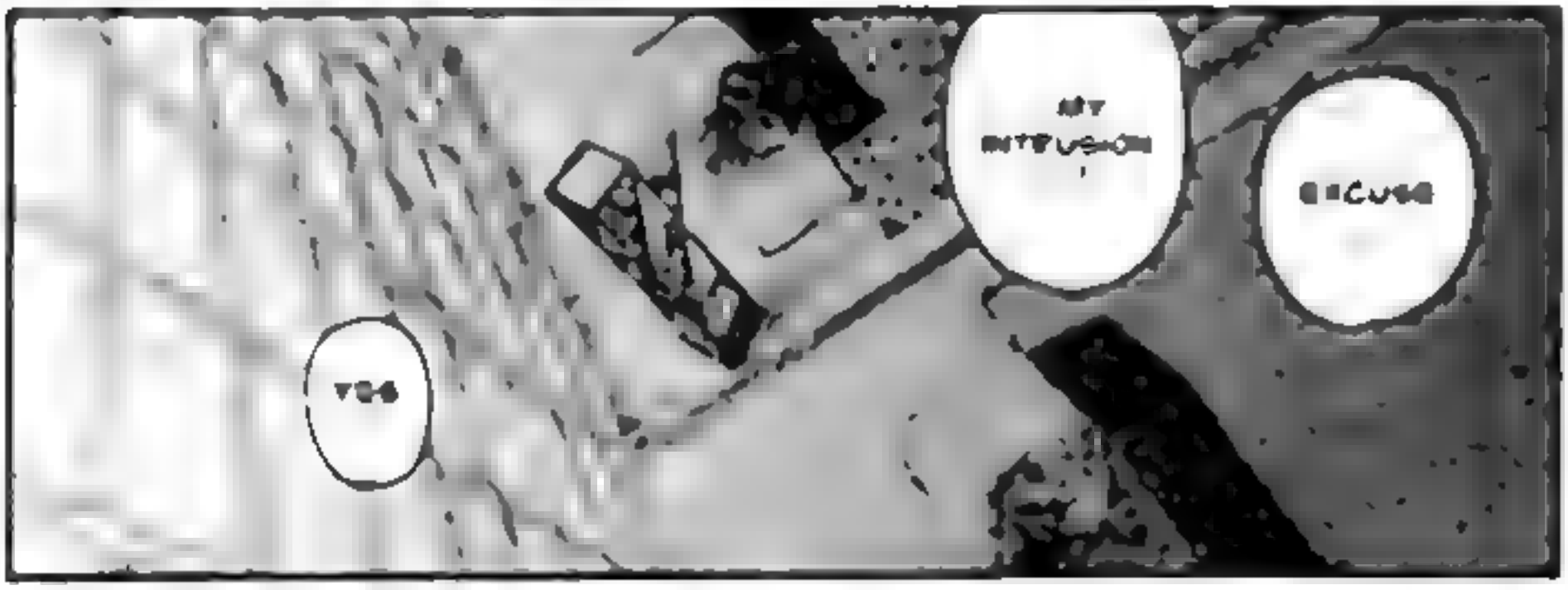
SOMETHING SIMILAR HAS HAPPENED A FEW TIMES. BUT I'M SERIOUS .

IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN, THEN I'LL LEAVE YOU WITHOUT A WORD.

BUT .

..THAT YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE TO SAVE MINE, THAT I CAN'T BEAR.




MY INTUITION
EXCUSE
YES

. THE LIFE OF A WOMAN WHO MEANT A LOT TO ME WAS RUINED.
YOU KNOW
A LONG TIME AGO. BECAUSE OF MY STUPIDITY

IT'S A HEAVY LOAD TO CARRY

TELL ME

MMM?

A WOMAN WHO MEANT A LOT TO HIM?

...

WELL

I STILL REMIND YOU OF YOUR DEAD SISTER

MACHI

THAT'S TRUE

YOU TWO DO LOOK ALIKE

MACHI

RIN

HEHE

ALIKE, BUT

---I ALWAYS SEE MACHI---

---WITH THE BROKEN SMILE SHE HAD AT THE END

IN MY MEMORIES ---

MAYBE I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER ?

ONE THING BOTHERS ME IN PARTICULAR

?

HM?

YOU ARE A MAN, RIGHT?

...IN YOUR BODY, WHERE

..WHERE DO YOU LEAVE THAT ..?

UH, ONE THING I DON'T UNDER-STAND .

THE STUFF THAT ACCUMU-LATES ...

AH?

..

..?

EH?!

I NEARLY DIED WHEN I TRIED TO GET A PASSPORT TO KAGA!

AND THEN HABAKI, THAT WAS EVEN WORSE.

TO STAY ALIVE CONSUMES ENOUGH OF MY ENERGY!

FOR EXAMPLE . I DIDN'T TELL YOU, BUT .

YOU THINK I HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY FOR SUCH A THING?

ARE YOU STUPID ?!

DON'T SHOUT!!

HYAKURIN TOLD ME TO ASK YOU WHEN WE WERE LYING NEXT TO EACH OTHER ...

MAYBE ..

YES, TRUE .

I DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER YOU.

...

AND BEFORE THAT?

BEFORE ?

IF IT ONLY WASN'T FOR THAT SIMI-LARITY .

..BOU..

.BOU.

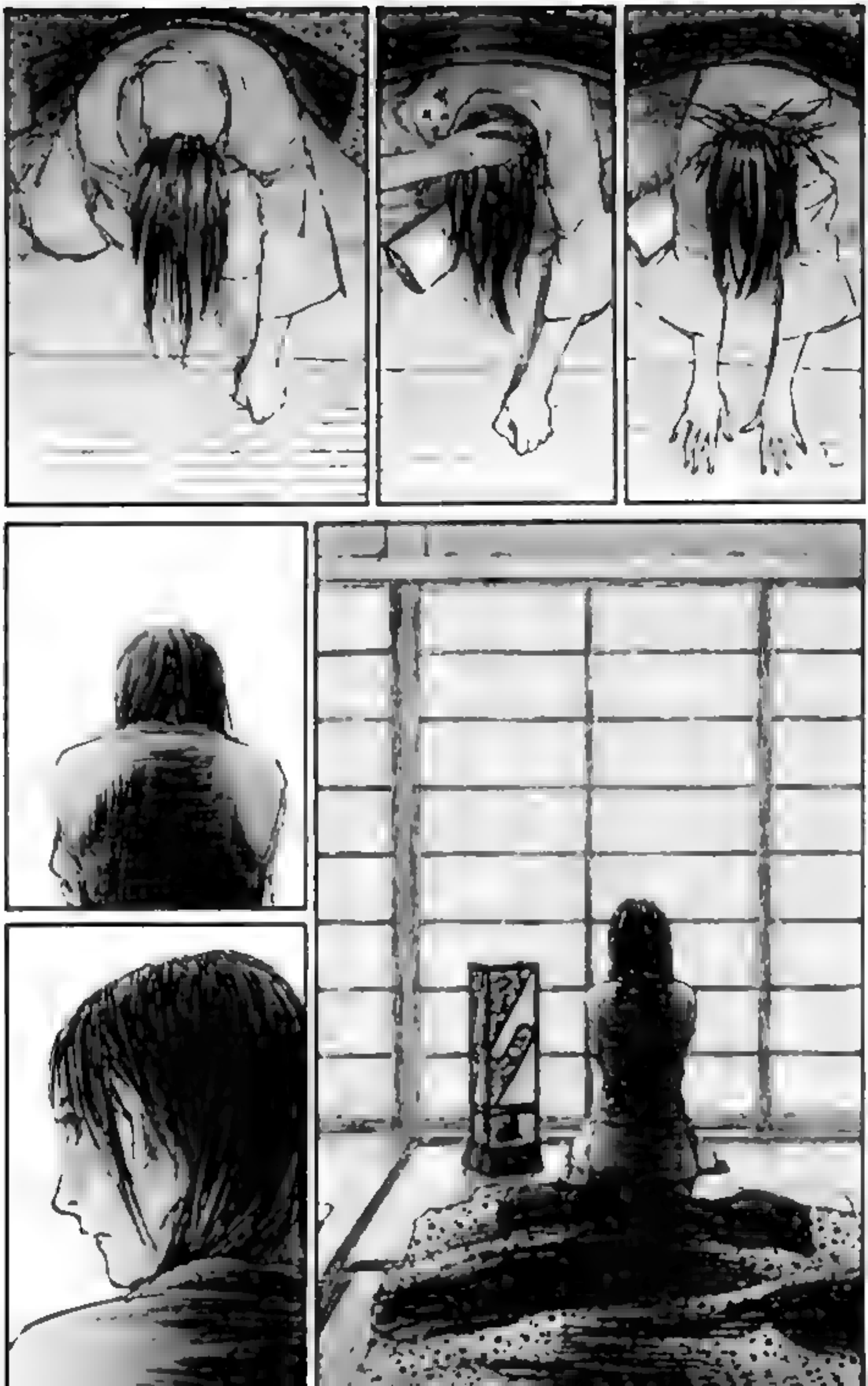
BOU...

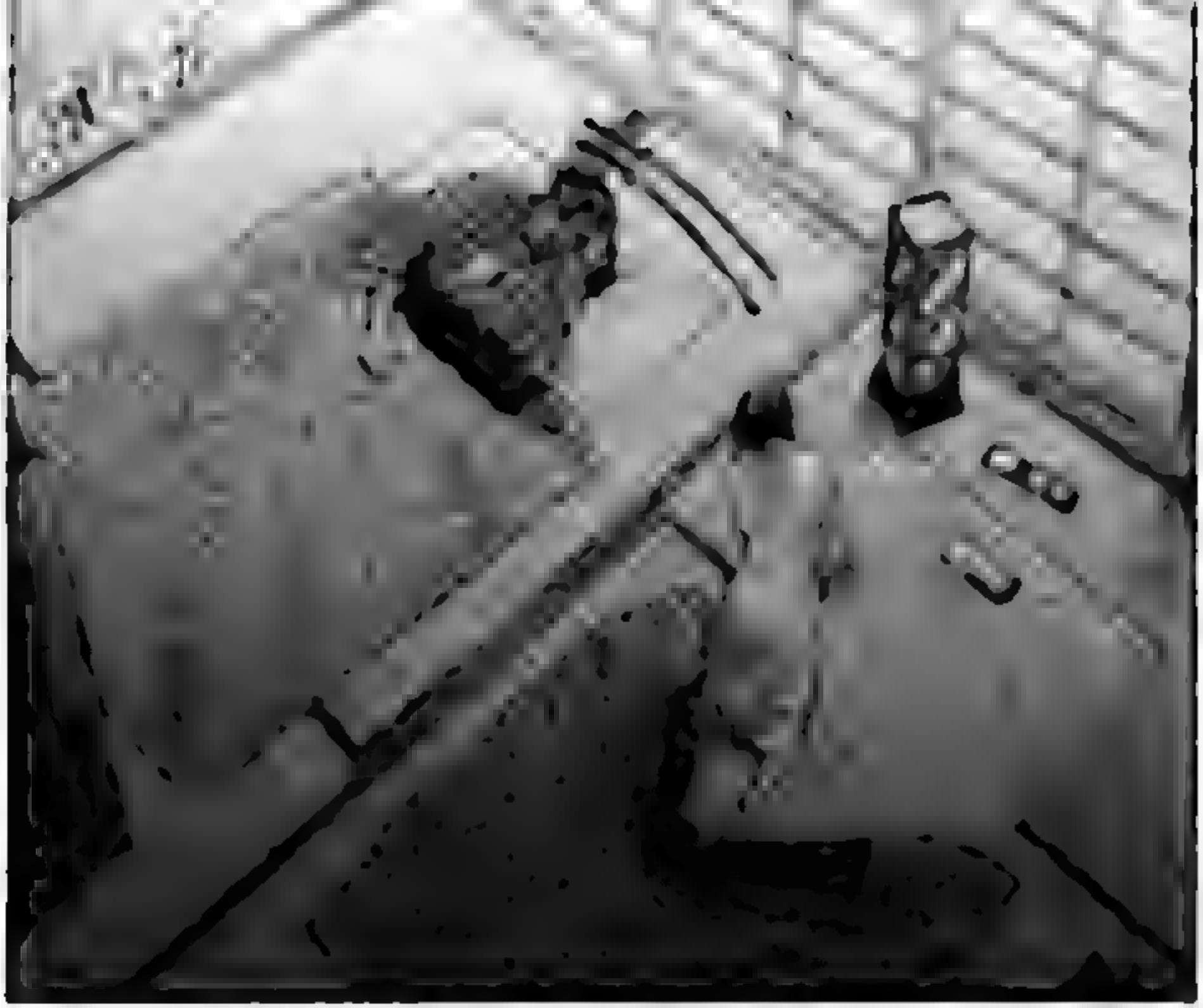
.BOUGHT ME!

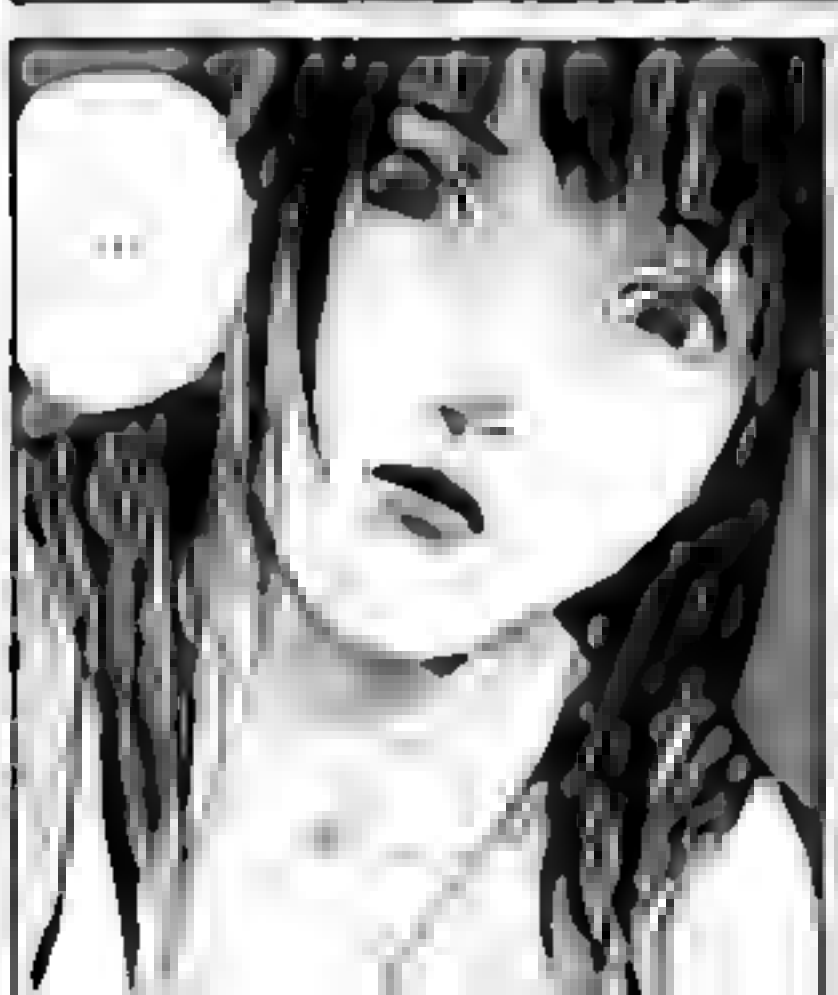
WHEN I HIRED YOU AS A BODYGUARD, YOU ALSO ..

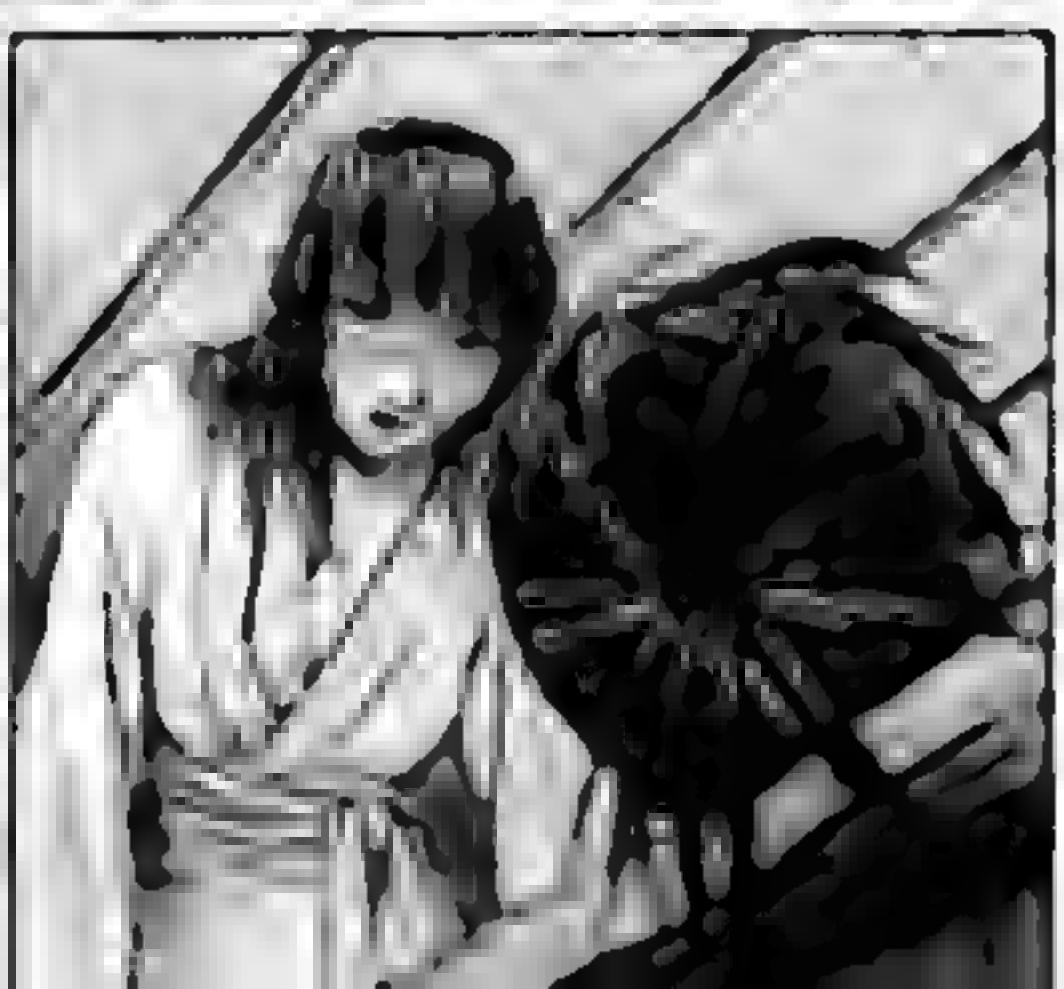
MAYBE YOU FORGOT, MANJI, BUT .

YOU FINALLY COULD BE NICER TO ME









HOW DO WE CONTINUE .?

AH .

EH? OH?

THAT WAS A *JOKE!!*

POOR GIRL....

AND NOW, GOOD NIGHT

YES

I FOUND ANOTSU ON MY OWN ---

MANJI ---

---AND I WAS ABLE TO SAVE A FRIEND IN DIRE NEED.

SINCE THEN MANY PEOPLE HAVE HELPED US---

HOW ABOUT A SMALL REWARD ---?

THAT'S WHAT I OFTEN THOUGHT. SOMETIMES I STILL THINK LIKE THAT.

THAT'S NO FALSE STRENGTH, IS IT? WHAT DO YOU

AND THE FATES OF MANY PEOPLE WILL BE INVOLVED ---

ANOTSU KAGEHISA WILL APPEAR AGAIN.

---AND END IT ALL.

I HAVE TO SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES ---

---THEN I WILL END THIS JOURNEY. NO MATTER HOW IT GOES ---

JUST A BIT MORE, JUST A LITTLE BIT---

STAY WITH ME A LITTLE LONGER ---

THAT'S WHY I BEG YOU, MANJI ---

LET US LAUGH AND GET UPSET TOGETHER ---

---HELP OTHERS AND BE HELPED ---

---AND ANNOY ONE ANOTHER!

YES, I JUST TALKED TO KAGEHISA ANOTSU YESTERDAY

IS THAT TRUE, HANA-BUSA?!

ITTO-RYU WILL BE BANNED IN EDO?

HM, WHAT DID HE . ?

HE WANTED TO GO TO SATSUMA

AH, I KNOW ..!

DID HE SAY WHERE HE WOULD GO?

MAYBE IN YOKOHAMA . OR HE COULD TAKE THE ROAD.

HE COULD BOARD A SHIP IN BOSO

SATSUMA ?

DUMB QUES-TION!

MISTER HABAKI, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I ONLY HAVE LESS THAN ONE MONTH LEFT! I WILL NOT LET HIM ESCAPE THIS PROVINCE!

I'M GOING TO COMPLETELY SEAL OFF THE ROUTE TO SATSUMA! EVERY SINGLE FISHING HAVEN OR POSTAL OFFICE THAT COULD BE ON HIS WAY . .

YOUR OBSESSION BORDERS ON LOVE

YOU ONLY HAVE ONE WEEK TO LEAVE EDO.

BUT YOU SHOULD HURRY

AFTER THAT, SOMEONE WILL COMMAND YOU TO DISSOLVE KOKKI-DAN

NOW, NOW, MISTER HABAKI THAT'S NOT HOW ONE SHOULD TALK ABOUT A COUNCIL ORDER. !

BULL-SHIT!

YOU THOUGHT THEY COULD LEAVE EDO AT THEIR OWN WILL?

THE HANAGUMI, A GROUP OF SIX SENTENCED CRIMINALS

THINK ABOUT IT !

YOU HAD THE MUGAI-RYU UNDER YOUR CONTROL. DON'T PUT ME, AS YOUR SUCCESSOR, INTO THE AWKWARD POSITION OF PERSECUTING MY FORMER SUPERIOR

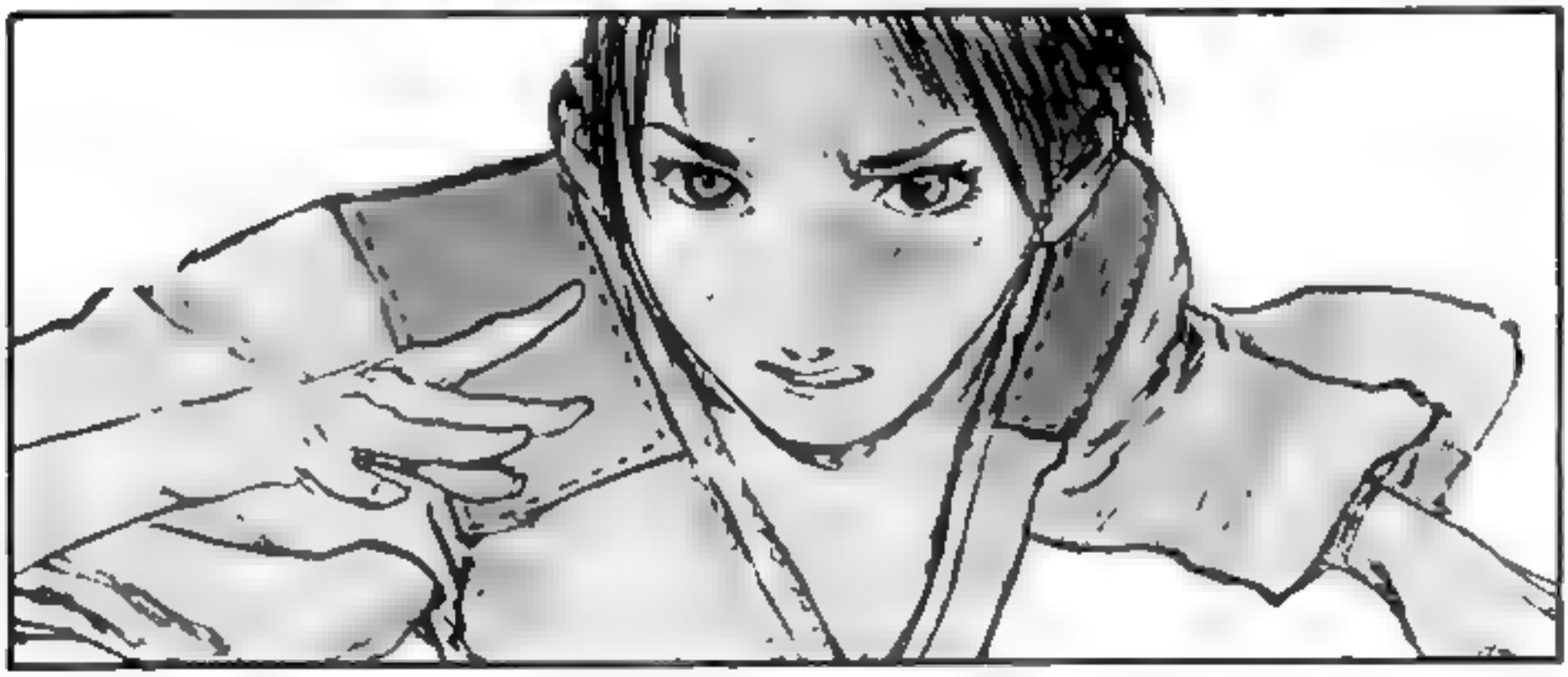
HN NGH ?!

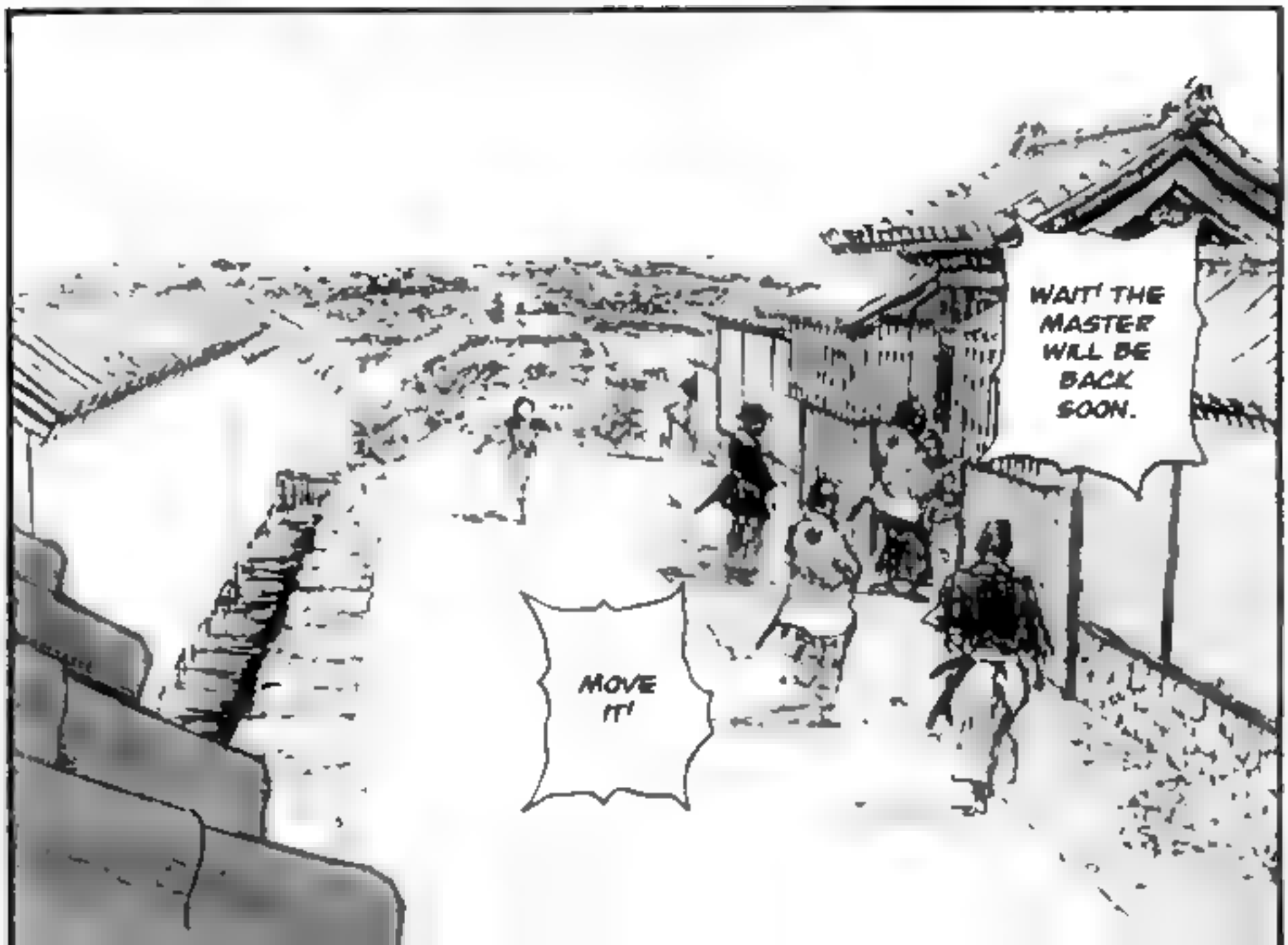
THE DELAY OF YOUR SAPPUKU MUST'VE GONE TO YOUR HEAD

EXCUSE MY WORRYING..! I'M SURE I CAN COUNT ON YOUR RATIONALITY.

AFTER ALL, THERE ARE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT

. THINGS AT STAKE FOR YOU THAN YOUR LIFE.




WAIT! THE MASTER WILL BE BACK SOON.
MOVE IT!

AND HE IS A DIRECT VASSAL OF THE SHOGUN

MY HUSBAND MIGHT HAVE LOST HIS POST, BUT THE HOUSE OF HABAKI CAN DEFEND ITSELF WITH MANY MILITARY HONORS

MOVE BACK!

IT'S IMPUDENT TO ENTER THE VERANDA WITH YOUR SHOES ON..! I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THIS NONSENSE!

CHAPTER 140 | END

CHAPTER 141:
COMRADES - PART 1 -

❖第百四十一幕❖
みちづれ
〈其の一〉

MASTER

MASTER

IT'S HORRIBLE, PLEASE FORGIVE US...!

WHERE WERE THEY TAKEN?

WE WEREN'T ABLE TO STOP THEM! PLEASE FORGIVE US!

ARMED OFFICIALS CAME AND TOOK YOUR WIFE AND SON!

I'M ASHAMED.

TA-NOMO!

TO THE HOME OF UGEN HANABUSA, MASTER .

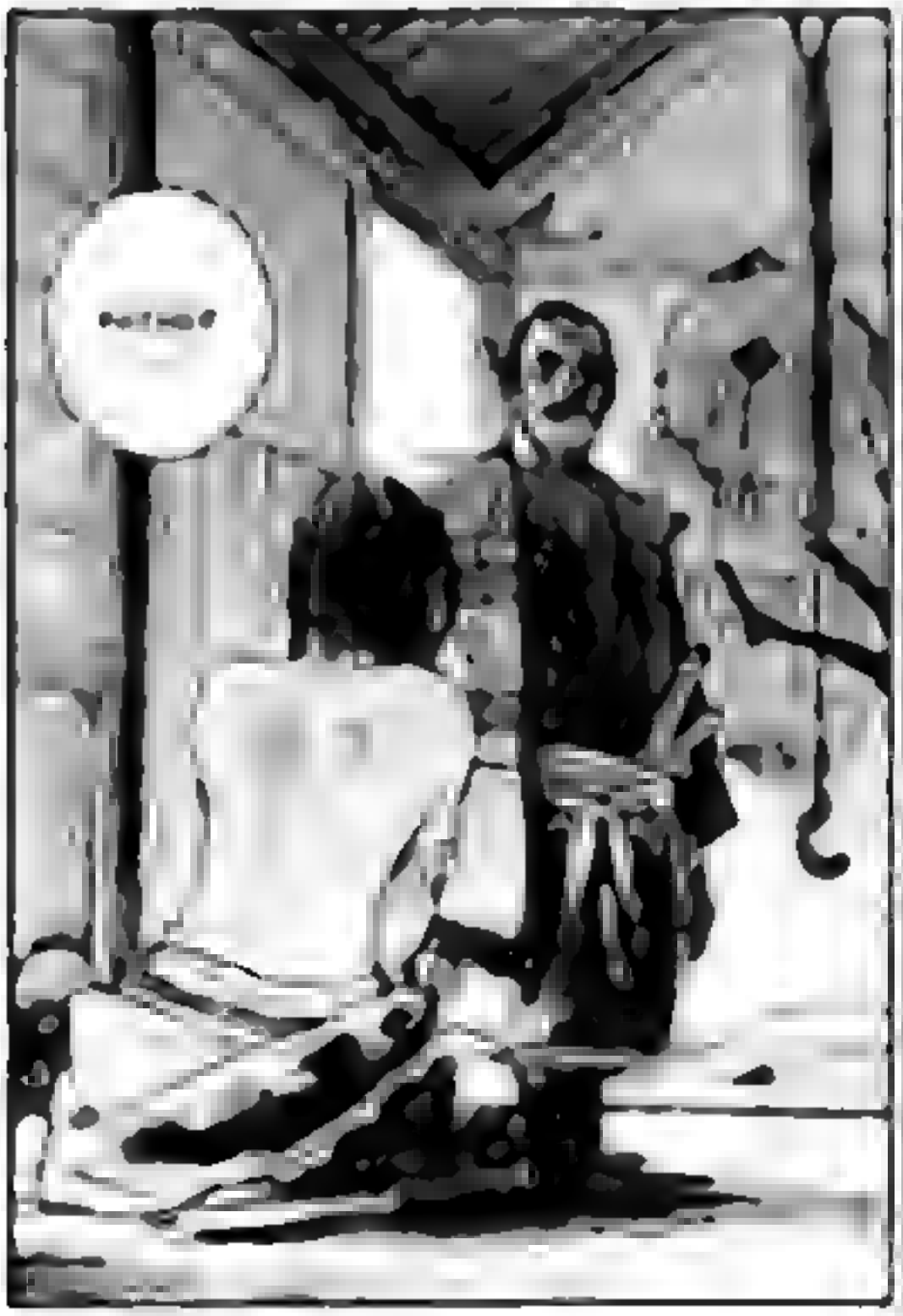
OH! THERE WAS ALSO A YOUNG GIRL . .

WE TRIED TO RESIST, BUT .

THAT WAS THEIR PLAN. THEY TOLD US THEY WOULDN'T HURT MS. SHIMA AND SAKUTARO AND WE WERE TOO WEAK TO DO ANYTHING WE HAD TO BELIEVE THEM

I DON'T KNOW WHO SHE WAS. DESPITE THE FACT THAT SHE WAS UNARMED, SHE FOUGHT FIERCELY, BUT THEY WERE TOO STRONG . .

FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, SHE WAS A WOODCHOPPER SHE STORMED THROUGH THE GATE AND ATTACKED THE SAMURAI



MBR
MPH!

I WAS IN THE CITY TO SELL CHARCOAL AND SAW HOW A GROUP OF SAMURAI WENT TOWARDS YOUR HOUSE I HAD THE FEELING SOMETHING WASN'T RIGHT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

THAT'S GOOD.

UNFOR-TUNATELY I COULDN'T BE OF ANY HELP.

YOU'RE LUCKY, THE WOUND ISN'T DEEP

THANKS A LOT

DID SHIMA SAY ANYTHING TO YOU ..?

RYO!

NO, NOT REALLY

TELL THE TRUTH!

BE GONE, LOWLIFE!

A SIMPLE WOOD CHOPPING GIRL HAS NO RIGHT TO INTER-FERE WITH THE QUARRELS THAT TAKE PLACE ON THE LAND OF A SAMURAI FAMILY.

DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT YOUR BEHAVIOR ONLY MAKES THINGS WORSE?!

THESE GENTLEMEN ARE HERE ON THE ORDER OF THE SHOGUN!

...

YOU HAVE NO REASON TO BE HERE

I DON'T RECALL ASKING YOU FOR YOUR HELP OR GIVING YOU PERMISSION TO ENTER MY HOUSE.

..GENTLE-MEN..

VERY WELL THEN..

WHEREVER YOU LEAD ME, I WILL FOLLOW.

IF YOU ACT ON AN OFFICIAL ORDER THEN THERE'S NO REASON TO MISTREAT THE WIFE OF A HATAMOTO.

I NEVER TALKED ABOUT YOU

MAYBE SHIMA REALIZED SOMETHING ..

THAT WAS PROBABLY HARD FOR YOU ..

IF THE SAMURAI HADN'T LEFT BECAUSE OF THE WORDS OF YOUR WIFE ..

YOUR WIFE SAVED MY LIFE.

NO, FATHER!

I OVER-ESTIMATED MYSELF ..

I'M SORRY ..

.. THEY WOULD HAVE KILLED ME BACK THERE

I LIKE SAKUTARO AND SHIMA

I WANT TO MAKE UP FOR IT

SO THEY REALLY ARE IN HANABUSA'S HOUSE ..

THEY LOOKED DEPRESSED

HMM

LET'S GET THEM BACK, MASTER HABAK!"

THERE'S NO GUARANTEE FOR IT TO REMAIN THAT WAY

BUT THEY DIDN'T SEEM TO HAVE BEEN HARMED

NO

. UGEN HANABUSA PREFERS A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OVER A VIOLENT ONE. AS LONG AS WE DON'T LEAVE EDO ..

BE-SIDES ..

THIS IS MY PROBLEM, I WON'T USE YOU FOR IT.

UNDERSTOOD? WE OF ROKKI-DAN MIGHT BE CRIMINALS, BUT WE ARE NO REBELS.

.. HE WILL KEEP HIS PROMISE.

IF THIS IS THE WILL OF THE AUTHORITIES, WE DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER OPTION, BUT TO ACCEPT IT WITHOUT ANY COMPLAINT.

WE WILL SMOKE KAGEHISA ANOTSU OUT WITHIN A WEEK!

REALLY!

REALLY? SHOW!

I HAVE ONE!

YES, THANKS.

YOU SAID 30 MON?

DO I LOOK LIKE THAT.. ?

AND I THOUGHT YOU ALWAYS SEW THEM YOURSELF

I HAVE TO GO AND SHARPEN MY SWORD ..

YOU GO AHEAD!

WHAT? HEY!

RIN, CATCH!

PLEASE COME WITH ME! IT'S NOT A LONG DETOUR.

MASTER SORI DOES SO MUCH FOR HIM, BUT HE DOESN'T SHOW ANY GRATITUDE

THROW THE KIMONO AWAY, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO CARRY IT. IT'S SORI'S.

TO BUY COLORS FOR THE ARTIST AND CARRY THEM FOR YOU? NO, THANKS.

THANK YOU.

I'LL TAKE THESE.

THAT'S ALL THE LUXURY HE WANTS, HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE ..

HAIR OIL FROM SHIMOMURA-YA MASHIRO AND COMFIT* FROM SUZUKI-ECHIGO ..

*A CONFECTION THAT CONSISTS OF A PIECE OF FRUIT, A SEED, OR A NUT COATED WITH SUGAR

UAAAH!

SORRY!

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE SORI IS THE BETTER SWORD FIGHTER

HEE HEE, IT WOULD BE FUNNY IF IT WAS TRUE

MANJI IS REALLY RUDE ..

. BUT ESPECIALLY TOWARDS MASTER SORI.

YOU ..?!

DAMN, I DIDN'T WATCH OUT ..!

I HAVE TO SAY SORRY

AH ...

!

A-A-ANO...

HEY ...

STOP!

WAIT !!

WAIT ...!

EH? A THIEF?

HEY!

WATCH OUT, YOU IDIOT!

PHEW
..

HA!

HA!

HA!

HA!

--- ANOTSU ALSO TRAVELED THE SAME DISTANCE

BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT

I THOUGHT AFTER KAGA I'D BE BETTER ON FOOT

PANT
..

PANT
..

WHY DID YOU FOLLOW ME.. ?!

...

...YOU CAN'T ORDER ME AROUND!

YOU ..

GO BACK!

HA ..!

YOU ..

YES, I HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK ---

BUT WHAT'S ANOTSU ACTUALLY DOING...?

MANJI ISN'T AROUND THERE WON'T BE ANY FIGHT ---

BUT HE'S RIGHT, WHAT WAS I THINKING ...?!

?!

SHHH!

TELL ME, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ITTO-RYU..?

OH ...!

JUST LIKE IN KAGA ---

...!

TSCHH!!!!

THE MAN AT THE FRONT IS ---

?

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WHY DO YOU WANT TO...?

"...?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...?!

...

SOME COMFIT, MANJI?

SAY "AAAH" ..

THIS GIRL ..

WHAT'S THE MATTER ?

1

LET'S GO!

THEN THE GUY NEXT TO HER IS THE HUNDRED MAN KILLER ...

...

...

PHEW! MY HEART WAS BEATING SO FAST!

HONESTLY ..

I USED MY HEAD TO PREVENT BLOODSHED!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?!

I CAN DO WITHOUT YOUR MEDDLING!

EH ?!

...

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO INTERFERE?

THEY BELONG TO AN ORGANIZATION THAT WAS FORMED TO ELIMINATE ITTO-RYU

IT SEEMS THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT UNKNOWN TO YOU.

THAT'S WHY I WALKED THROUGH THE CITY TO FIND SOME AND INTERROGATE THEM.

..HOW MANY MEMBERS THEY HAVE OR IN WHAT AREA THEY OPERATE.

BUT I DON'T KNOW ..

THEY ARE CALLED "ROKKI-DAN" AND THEY ARE HABAKI'S PRIVATE ARMY.

DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH TIME AND EFFORT IT COST ME TO LURE THEM HERE?!

HOWEVER IT WOULD'VE BEEN NOTICED IF DONE IN THE CITY AND THEY COULD'VE CALLED FOR HELP.

AHHH, I GET IT!

OH ..

THEY WILL THINK WE ARE ALLIES.

IF YOU DO THAT THEY'LL KILL YOU TOO.

I'M VERY SORRY!

HOW STUPID ARE YOU .?

ARGH ...!

LEAVE IT BE! IT'S TOO LATE, SIT DOWN.

I WILL CALL THEM: "COME HERE. KAGEHISA ANOTSU IS HERE!"

THE WEA-
THER
IS MILD
TODAY
..

THAT WAS
REALLY
STUPID
OF ME
...

WHY DID
I HAVE
TO HELP
HIM...?!

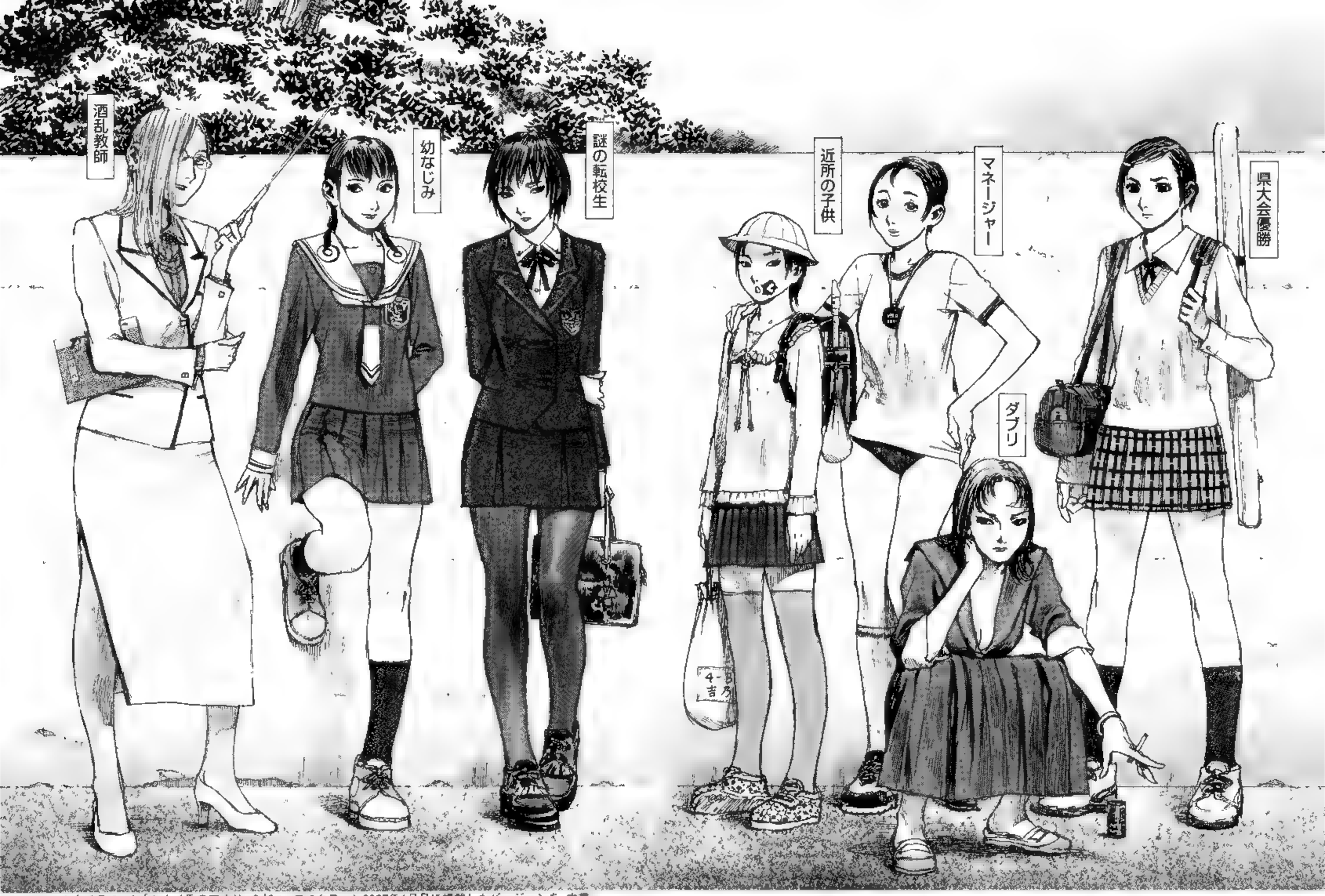
TELL ME
ABOUT IT,
IF YOU HAVE
TIME

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOU AFTER
THE FIGHT IN
SUWA?

EH?!

BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL 21 END

付録



※本イラストに「セカイ系のアオリ」を加え、アフタヌーン2007年1月号に掲載したバージョンを、本書のどこかに収録しています。

巻末特別企画 武器屋24時間 猛将伝

▲ イペタム

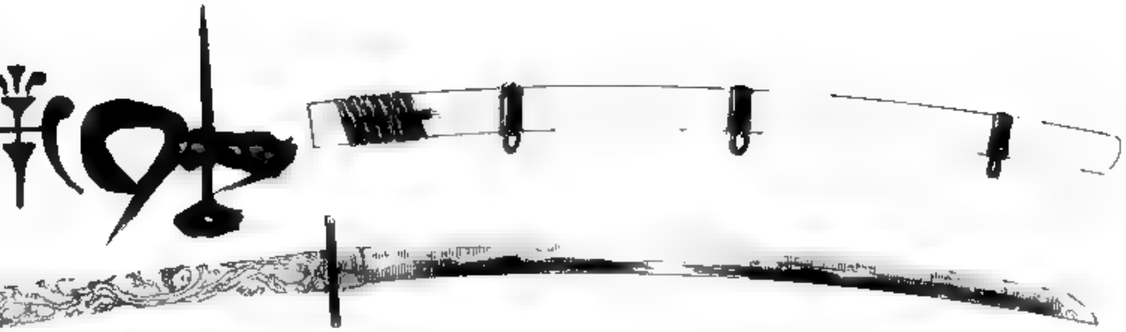
樺太アイヌが行う大陸との交易を山丹交易といい、その交易で将来した椿を俗に山丹椿と呼ぶ。これは山丹椿の先端部分を瞳阿が剣として使用しているもの。瞳阿はこれに、アイヌの伝統上の邪剣の名をつけたようだ。「イペタム」は「人喰い」の意。

瞳阿

▲ キラウコンタ　拾った十手の先を削ったもの。

▲ 鯱釣　14巻に登場。「シャチも釣れる大もの釣針」と言いたいようだ。ていうか本当に漁業用の道具だったのでは……と思わせる変な形状。突端は両刃になっている。

星皮



▲ 鴉鷺　（大小あり）

吐はこれを帯に差しているが、鍔と鞘を見る限り本来は太刀であろう。何かこの太刀でなければいけない理由でもあるのだろうか？ 柄なけは替えてあるが先に鞘を替えるとよいだろう。（すんません！ 9巻背表紙は間違いという事で…）

阿黒山

▲ 断舟九印（だんしんくいん）　片腕で扱える事を前提に作られた特注刀。これ一本で斬る・刺す・掘る・刃を折る・缶を開ける・コルクを抜く・ゆで卵を輪切りにする等さまざまな機能があり便利。

▲ ガザミ　普通の人間がこんな代物を両腕に付けたるまともに動けない。鵺一号の剛腕はこの武器自体の重量からくるパワーリスト効果か!?

鵺

馬簡

▼ 杉ノ明露（すぎのあけつゆ）　野太刀と呼ばれる非常に長く重量のある太刀の刀身に穴を空けて軽量化を図っている。見た目よりはるかに↗

↗非常に扱う事が出来ます。鵺君から「折れそうですね」と指摘をいただいたがすみません。オレもそう思います。

若てとは
聞かれでる
扉の事だぞ
ロートリ！

……
……
……

期限は残り七日。逸刀流対六鬼団、
壮絶なる殲滅戦！

次巻［第二十二巻］乞う御期待!!

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日米欧亜を制した人口巻ネオ時代劇

「無限の住人（むげんのじゅうにん）」全巻あらすじ。一挙大公開！　●第1巻（1994年8月刊）：百人斬りを果たした皇国の剣・卍（まんじ）。その身に血仙蟲（けっせんちゅう）を宿し不死身となった彼は、妹を失い千人斬りを誓う。天津影久（あのつかげひさ）率いる逸刀流（いっとうりゅう）に父を殺され身を凌辱された少女・凛（りん）は復讐行にあたり卍を用心棒とし、逸刀流・黒衣剣人（くろいたばと）らを襲撃。逸刀流・幽鬼斗（まがつたいと）、凛の父の友人・尺縄（そうり）登場。　●第2巻（1994年12月刊）：血仙蟲を宿した逸刀流・無骸永重（しすまえいくう）登場。無限城の唯一の弱点である黒・血仙蟲（けっせんさつ）で卍を殺しめるが甦れ解体される。童女から逸刀流となった天才剣士・乙橘槇絵（おとのたちばなまきえ）登場。　●第3巻（1995年4月刊）：凛と卍の死闘。凛の死闘に終わるが、凛の献身により凛にとどめを刺さずに去る。傷ついた天津に凛が挑み、無惨に殺される。　●第4巻（1995年10月刊）：逸刀流・川上新蔵（かわかみあらや）登場。新蔵の過去を知らない息子・蓮雄（れんそう）と凛の間に交流が生まれるが、卍は無道の剣で新蔵を惨殺する。　●第5巻（1996年3月刊）：逸刀流開祖を継ぐ無骸流（むがいりゅう）・百琳（ひゃくりん）、弥一（ざいち）、尸良（しら）、真刃郎（しんりじ）ら登場。凛の新宿編（しんぼんがしら）・吐舞羅（はばらかぜむら）登場。天津に「逸刀流の剣術お教え」を持ちかける。「加牙馬」の開始。　●第6巻（1997年6月刊）：逸刀流・阿黒山家介（あぼやまそうすけ）登場。使用人・真琴（まこと。真は無骸流よりの内通者）から「逸刀流狩り」の詳細を知る。卍は無骸流とともに天津無双に参加するが、非道ぶりを見るわにする尸良の右肩を刺とし、決別。　●第7巻（1997年10月刊）：加賀に向け発った天津、卍を置いて旅立つ凛。後を追う卍は火直（ひが）ら逸刀流剣士と遭遇、苦戦を強いられる。　●第8巻（1998年7月刊）：激闘の末、火直は卍を倒すが無傷ではすず、逆に百琳に重傷を負たれる。無所属けを試みる凛に降りかかる災難の4月。加賀に到着した天津は、伊羽斬水（いはねけんすい）ら心形無流（しんぎょうとうりゅう）の剣士たちと対面。　●第9巻（1999年6月刊）：天津は斬水に、凛の仲間と無骸の娘・吉花（ひそか）との関係を調査される。凛は無骸を失う。尺縄のもとで卍と凛の再会。尸良は逸行手形と引き替えに無骸流の弱点を逸刀流に売る。　●第10巻（2000年4月刊）：開らわれた百琳に加えられる冒険な拷問、そして脱出。弥一は逸刀流・鬼蜘（きぬか）らを差々と斬る。無骸流の開祖が杜であることが明らかになる。卍と凛は尸良に襲われ、その右肩の秘密を知る。　●第11巻（2001年1月刊）：死力を尽くした闘いの後、凛は尸良の左肩をも斬とす。吉花との決着を終え、加賀を発つ天津と出会う凛。そこに現れた曲者たち。　●第12巻（2002年2月刊）：斬水と吉花に降りかかる悲劇。逸っ子の無により激闘する天津と、凛との再会。江戸では杜の逸刀流潰しが開始せんとする。　●第13巻（2002年11月刊）：凛を開らえた心形無流と、天津、卍、凛、さらに無骸が集結、開闘の幕を真に飾める大乱闘となる。「加賀編」終幕。弥一と卍とが対峙する間に、凛が逸刀流に拉致される。　●第14巻（2003年7月刊）：卍、弥一と、逸刀流・金原無風（かそりふじあき）、尼山無量（わやんくりしげ）、そして凛による五つ巴の死闘。阿黒山による真琴の解放。杜による卍の連捕。凛と逸刀流・吉乃無月（よしのどうあ）、八死狼実作（やそのおおかみいなく）との出会い。　●第15巻（2004年1月刊）：「不死力解明編」開始。杜の指示のもと、百琳・金原（もうぜん）、徘徊歩間人（あやめぶらんど）、関手・武士衛門（とうえもん）らが、地下牢に開らわれた卍に真琴を施す。無骸流の解放。　●第16巻（2004年5月刊）：公儀御抽出用斬首人（こうぎおためしごようぜんしゅにん）・山田浅右衛門吉真（やまだあさえもんよしひろ）、人界んで「首斬り朔」登場。卍の「不死」を探るための人体切断試験となる。卍と無骸を交換した男人・出羽介（でわのすけ）に施される「不死」の秘薬。百琳と弥一、さらには天津との人生の交差。　●第17巻（2004年11月刊）：斬首した開心らを百門が鍋で煮りにしたことで真作が逃亡される。無骸流潰けにされた卍の肉体を使い、大量の囚人に壊死な人体実験を施すことで、歩間人は「不死」の謎に迫る。　●第18巻（2005年8月刊）：卍と真作の脱出のため、江戸城の地下に潜入する凛と百門。逸刀流・仙狗（おすばん）の衝撃な活躍。そして不死真琴が生み出した残虐的な敵の精鋭者。　●第19巻（2006年4月刊）：凛は武士衛門を襲うが重傷に陥気絶倒。卍を開けぎつ百琳を立てる。そして凛と再会した卍と、杜、続いて浅右衛門との闘い。浅右衛門の部下・弁兎（べんき）に、真作と百門も戦闘に加わる。　●第20巻（2006年10月発売予定）：歩間人の造った不死の怪物が出現。凛帆を追した大激闘となる。半壊した江戸城の開門。尸良と無骸が登場、卍の左肩を狙う妻る。「不死力解明編」終幕。

連載開始12年、次巻より終幕が開く!!!!

守りきることが
出来ただろうか。

続く死闘、そして「あの男」の再臨。
不死をめぐって交錯する
様々な殺戮行、ここに決着！

「不死力解明編」驚愕の完結！

次頁より（最終章）本編開始、「最後の敵」の正体が――!?

連載150回達成! 記念企画

女たちの無限の住人

沙村広明
Samura Hiroaki

1993年に本誌に登場以来、不死の侍・卍の活躍とともに世界を驚かせ続けてきた本作品は、「剣」と「復讐」の物語であると同時に、「女」の物語でもある。このたび連載が150回に到達したのを機に、彼女たちを中心に物語を振り返ってみよう——。

両親を殺害された浅野凛[1]。不死の侍・卍を助っ人に頼み仇討ちの旅に出る。道行きも最初のうちは、卍に対する感情も「この蟲虫魔人」といったひどいものであったが、数々の危機を乗り越えるうちに次第に変化。今では自ら卍を押し倒し……となるまで恋慕の情を募らせているようである。

凛の前に立ちはだかる最強の女剣士が乙橘槇絵[2]。凛の仇・天津の「掻籃の師」でもある彼女だが、一度はその手を経いつけてもある剣を封じるという基本に出る。しかしかつての剣の目的であった父の悲しき末期に触れるなどの経験を経て、やがてその心境は微妙に変化。現在は天津と行をともにすると決意、どうやら隠れて同棲生活を送っている模様。

百琳[3]は自らの息子を夫に殺害されたのち刺客の道を歩む。しかし殺し続ける道に平穏は訪れず、やがて返り討ちに遭い陵辱され、果てにはその身に子を宿すに至る。自死をも考えた彼女であるが、本作品で最強の剣士の一人でもある偽一[4]の哀心よりの説得を受け、「命の消費者」より「産んで増やす」事を決意する。

女の幸せというものをどう定義するかは意見が分かれようが、吉乃瞳阿[5]の場合はその一例になるかも知れない。北の地より隠れキリシタン・美作と流れてきた彼女は、天津に心酔しその門下となる。だが、最終的には美作を救うため天津の教えを破り、美作と二人で安住の地を求めさらなる旅に出てゆくのだ。

一方、仙嬢[6]の幸せは恋愛にはないようだ。隠し子である自分が父・吐の重荷になることを恐れたのか、血のにじむような鍛錬を経て、相当な剣力を手に入れたのである。華奢な少女の外見に似合わず、父の率いる非合法暗殺組織にその身を投じることを喜びとした彼女の道は、やがて不可逆的に凛の道と交わることになるであろう。

これからの物語で欠かせない女も紹介しておこう。二人のくノ一、目黒[7]とたんぽぽ[8]である。目黒は宗理に恋愛感情を抱き、その長屋に居候する凛を素性も知らずに嫌悪している。彼女の嫌悪のもう一つの対象が、くノ一のくせに運動神経が鈍く、でもスタイル抜群なたんぽぽである。たんぽぽはその画力を任務とし、物語においては暗殺組織にその腕を利用されている。また目黒の傷はたんぽぽを守ってついたともいわれているが、実情は定かではない。ともあれ彼女たちの恋模様が、切実さを増す物語「最終章」の行方をいっそう不透明なものにしてゆくであろう——。

次頁、150回記念にて女たちの揃い踏み!

誰にも一度しか訪れない季節、過ごす学園の名は「無限」。
僕らはその「住人」たちに、導かれるようにして出会うんだ――。

無限の住人

酒乱教師

百琳

主人公の通う無限学園の中国語教師だが、酒を飲みながら英語の授業をする破天荒な性格。昔、酔うと近所の子どもをいじめていたため、主人公のトラウマ的存在になっている。

幼なじみ

浅野凛

いつも元気で、その外見からは信じがたい大食漢。幼いころ主人公にもらったヘアリングが捨てられない。彼に贈した小刀に気付かれたとき、彼女は意外な一面を見せて……。

謎の転校生

乙橘槙絵

主人公を追いかけるように転校してきた無口な少女。その最度のため周囲から誤解を受けやすいが、とあるキッカケでその幼児体型にコンプレックスを感じていたことが明らかに。

近所の子供

マネージャー

たんぽぽ

名家の箱入り娘で、スタイル抜群のお嬢様。帝王学の一環で3年間だけ学園に通うことを許されている。常に一生懸命だが破壊的にドジで、家族ではいつも主人公を困らせる。

ダブリ

目黒

学園最強の異名をとる暗殺女将軍家。何かと主人公につきまとい、なぜか凛をライバル視して、勝負を挑んでくる。ダブリゆえかいつも留年を繰りたがるが、実は寂しがり屋。

吉乃瞳阿

一人暮らしの主人公のため、毎日のように部屋に来ては家事全般をこなしてくれる。最近、主人公の周りに女の子が増えたので、前のように甘えまくることができず不満なようだ。

4-3 吉乃

県大会優勝

杣燎

主人公がよく通う喫茶店「ろっきだん」の看板娘。文武両道の優等生なので周囲から敬遠されがちだが、まったくそれを意に介さない主人公が気になり始めているらしい……。

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ジャンル	ツンデレっ娘非攻略型コミック
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シナリオ	沙村広明

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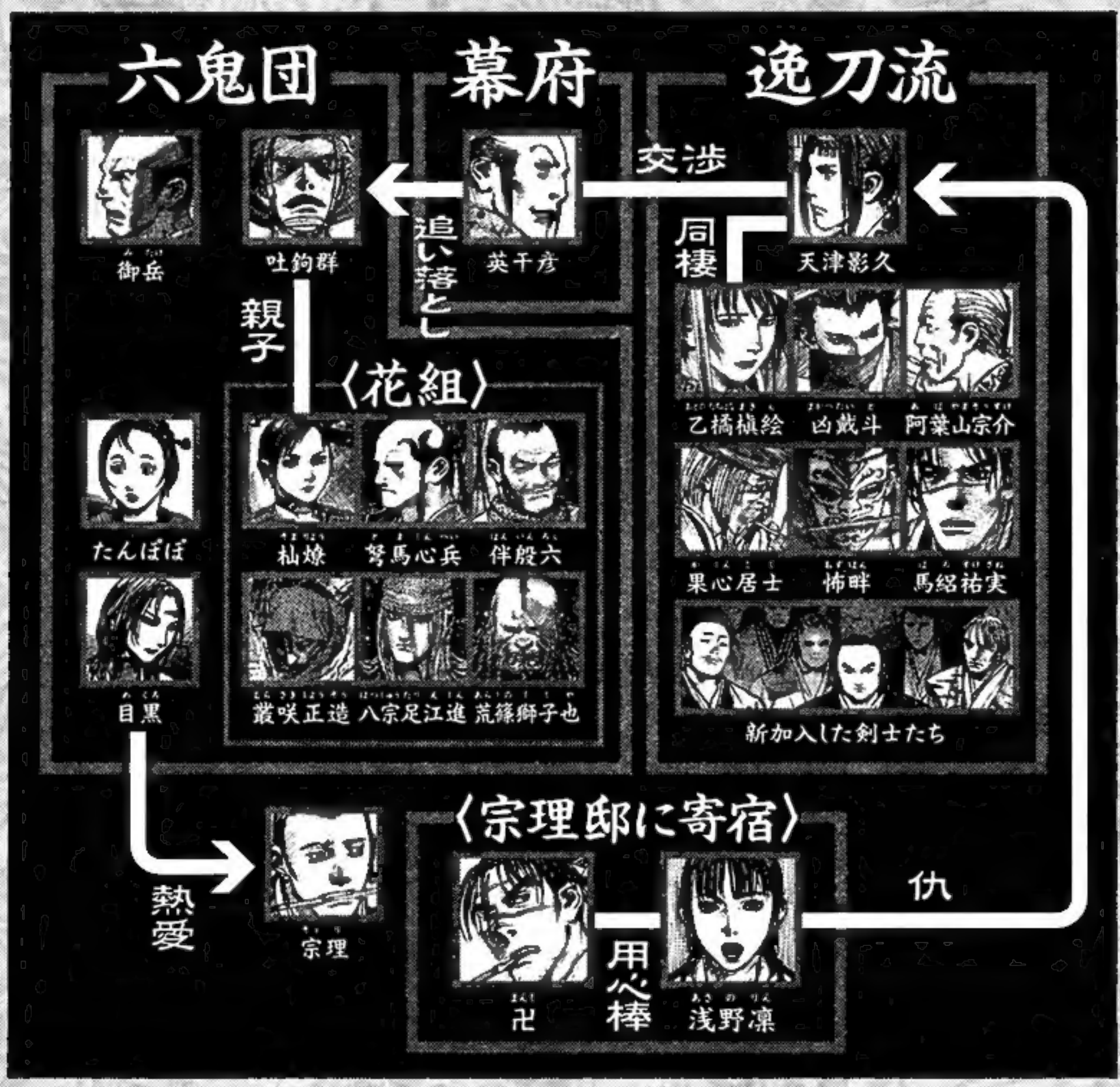
※いちおう申し上げておけば、本ページの記述は本編とほぼ関係ありません。でもこんな設定のギャルゲーを誰かが作ってくれるなら個人的に嬉しいなぁという気持ちはあります。

無限の住人 最終章 粗筋

夜道を往く逸刀流剣士を襲う謎の集団。その名は「六鬼団」、江戸城破壊の責任を取らされ役を解かれた吐鉤群が、切腹までの猶予一ヵ月の間に逸刀流を殲滅すべく集めた無頼の剣士たちである。他方、逸刀流統主・天津影久も灰燼に帰した道場の地下に新たな剣士たちを集め、策動を始める。天津は吐に代わる幕府新番頭・英千彦と会見。表向きは「逸刀流は江戸を出る」ことで合意するが――。

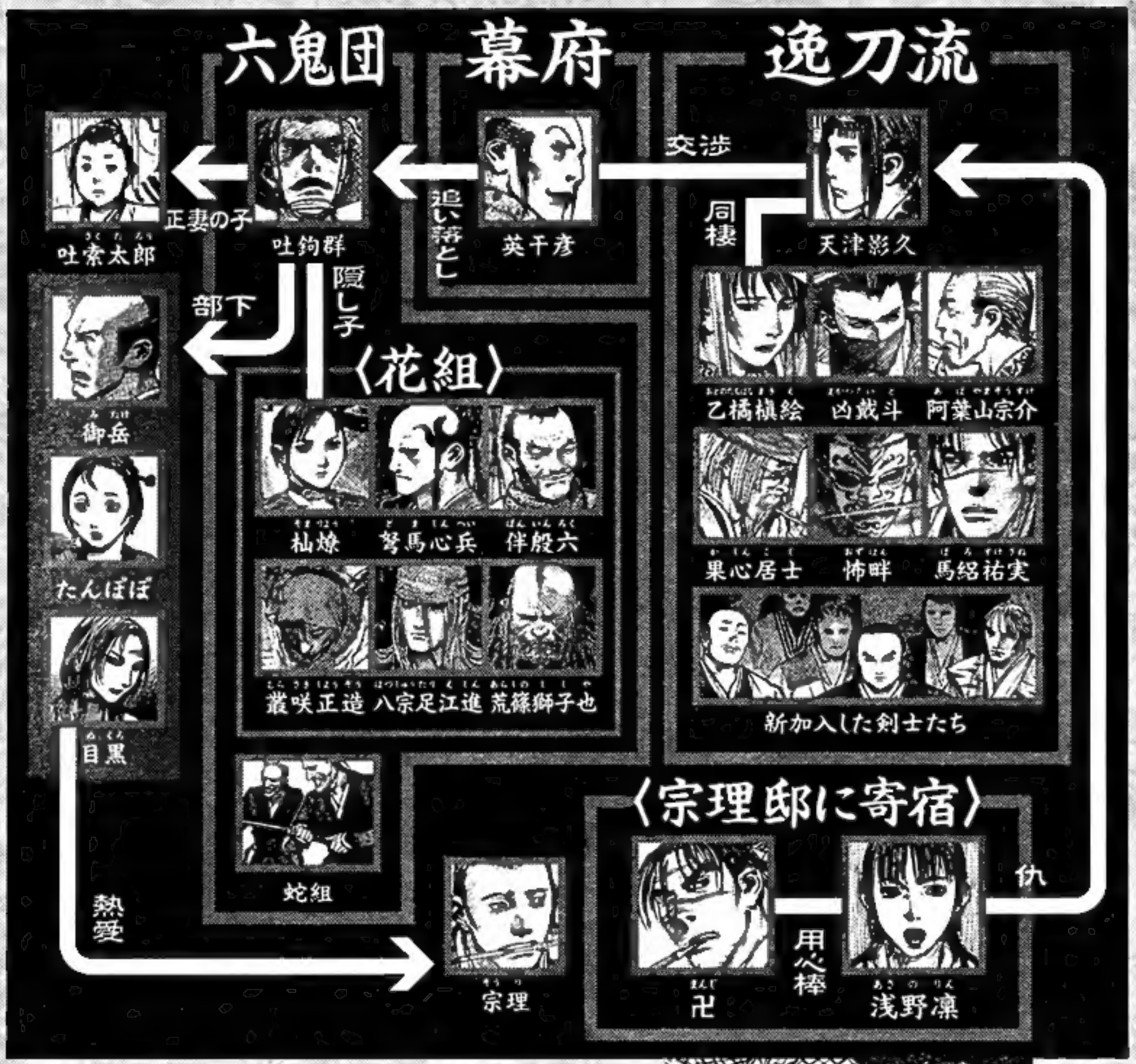


[最終章]直前までの苛烈な道行をおさめた単行本①～⑳、絶賛発売中!

次ページより本編開幕!!

無限の住人 最終章粗筋

逸刀流に降りかかる苛烈な攻撃。指令するのは吐鉤群、切腹までの一か月の間に逸刀流を殲滅すべく「六鬼団」を結成したのだ。他方、逸刀流統主・天津影久も灰燼に帰した道場の地下に新たな剣士たちを集め、策動を始める。天津は吐に代わる幕府新番頭・英千彦と会見し、表向き「七日後、逸刀流は江戸を出る」ことで合意。これは江戸を出られぬ六鬼団にとって、狩りの期限が七日に短縮されたことを意味する。さらに英は手を緩めず、後のない吐を追い詰めるべく、吐の妻子を襲撃させる——。



卍と一つ屋根のもとに暮らす凛の揺れる心は？
逸刀流狩りに対抗する天津はどう動くか？
襲撃された吐家に向かった妹は？
宗理は本当にカッパなのか？

本編は次頁より開始ッ！